

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council

VOL. 73, NO. 6

Since 1952 •

Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades

65 Cents

March 22, 2024

## SHORT CUTS

### Judge tosses union-friendly franchise rule

A new rule by the National Labor Relations Board that would have made it easier for millions of workers to form unions was blocked March 8 by a federal judge in Texas.

U.S. District Court Judge J. Campbell Barker ruled that the NLRB's new regulation would be "contrary to law" and that it was "arbitrary and capricious" in regard to how it would change the existing rule.

The current NLRB rule, adopted by a Trump-appointed, Republican-majority board in 2020, said companies with franchises – think McDonald's – aren't considered a joint employer since workers are directly employed by franchisees.

Of course, under such a setup, that greatly limits the legal exposure of the parent company in labor negotiations, with any worker actions taken against the employer only apply to individual franchisees.

When the new NLRB rule was announced last October by a Biden-appointed majority, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said "the point of the rule is simple – when workers negotiate for fair wages and working conditions, companies shouldn't be able to hide behind a subcontractor or staffing agency to deny us what we've rightfully earned. Today, too many employers use intermediaries like staffing firms or temp agencies to evade their responsibilities under the law. This rule ensures that union members can bargain with each company that has the power to make changes in the workplace."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups sued to stop implementation of the rule, and went court-shopping to do so, bringing the case to the highly conservative federal court in the Eastern District of Texas to block the rule. And Judge Barker delivered for them. An appeal is likely.

"Under the 2023 final rule, contractors would be vulnerable to increased liability and risk, making them less likely to hire subcontractors, most of which are small businesses," said anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors Vice President Ben Brubeck.

The AFL-CIO's Shuler countered: "The rule is about basic common sense. The right to collectively bargain is non-existent if the company that has the power to change workers' terms and conditions of employment, isn't negotiating with workers."

### Anti-union firms seek to kill NLRB

Don't like NLRB rulings? Then get rid of the NLRB.

Notoriously anti-union companies like Trader Joe's, Amazon and Tesla have all been found responsible for unlawful, anti-union behavior by the National Labor Relations Board.

Now their lawyers are arguing that their union-busting, behaviors are legal because the NLRB itself is unconstitutional. They have filed joint cases with the NLRB and in federal district court to dismantle the NLRB, which administers labor law in the nation.

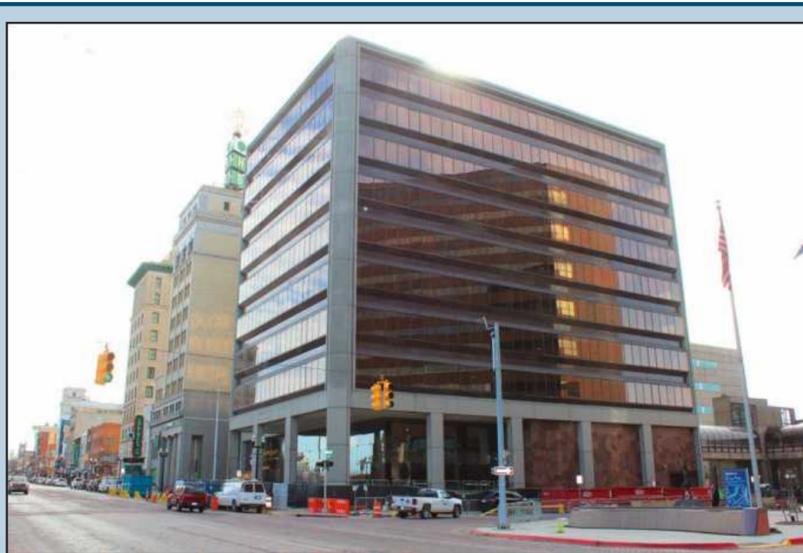
Seth Goldstein, an attorney who represents both the Amazon Labor Union and the labor group Trader Joe's United, said the cases are "very frightening."

"Since they can't defeat successful union organizing, they now want to just destroy the whole process," he said.

### Quotable

"Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something."

—Plato (427 BC - 347 BC)



THE OPERATIONS OF FOUR Genesee County administrative offices will be combined under one roof, the former Citizens Bank tower on Flint's main drag, Saginaw Street. Last month, the building was being gutted and renovation work had commenced. E.L. Construction Group is managing the project.

## Flint trades ready tower for Genesee County offices

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

FLINT – Consolidated space for employees of Genesee County is on the way, in the form of a 10-story tower that's being renovated downtown at Union and Saginaw streets.

Formerly occupied by Citizens Bank, and purchased from the University of Michigan-Flint, the building will bring together 350 or so county employees from four locations, to operations under one roof, offering the county efficiency savings while bringing more workers to a downtown that very much needs them.

The \$26.8 million project is being managed by E.L. Construction Group, which is overseeing subcontractors and trades workers performing a wholesale renovation the 1980s-era tower's interior, and then transforming it into efficient space for Genesee County

departments.

"We have an awesome group of tradespeople out here; they're working together really well," said E.L. Construction Group

Supt. Guy Cornell last month. "Right now, we're working throughout the entire building. We're doing just about a total

(Continued on Page 3)



ASSEMBLING A HEADER on the seventh floor of the Genesee County building for its new heating supply and return system are plumbers David LaForest and Mike Vondra. The UA Local 370 members are employed by Platinum Mechanical.



SETTING A BLOCK WALL in the basement of what will be the Genesee County Building are Matthew Ellis and Wilbur Cox of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by B & G Masonry Service.

## Nice start in '24 for Michigan, U.S. construction

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

You're off to a pretty good start, 2024.

January wasn't great, but U.S. construction industry numbers overall for the first two months of the year show "that demand for construction remains strong in many parts of the country," said the Associated General Contractors on March 11, while cautioning that, as always these days, "labor shortages are restraining employment gains."

Michigan's construction em-

ployment situation remains on the plus side over the past 12 months, with building sector jobs up 2.6 percent from February 2023 to February 2024, ranking our state

### Solid numbers for overall economy, too

U.S. employment rose by 275,000 in February, continuing a post-Covid positive jobs streak that has extended for 38 straight months.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate ticked up two percentage points to 3.9 percent, the highest in 25 months, but is still historically low, and is the longest

No. 25 in percentage gains. Michigan gained 4,900 construction jobs during those 12 months.

"This report confirms that construction demand remains ro-

streak under 4 percent since the 1960s. Wages rose just 0.1 percent for the month, but were up 4.3 percent from 12 months prior.

The numbers were released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on March 7.

"The strong labor market continues into 2024 with 275,000

## With fragile majority, trades urge Dems to finish the job for labor

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

LANSING – Restoring prevailing wage. Rescinding the state's right-to-work law. Eliminating the burdensome tax on senior citizens' pensions. Re-establishing state workers' rights to bargain collectively.

Those were all colossal laws adopted by the Democrat majority in Michigan's Legislature, and passage of the first two turned heads all over the nation because prevailing wage comebacks and laws to overturn right-to-work are exceedingly rare among the 50 states.

But that was 2023. Since then, building trades union leaders and the rest of organized labor in Michigan have been asking the ancient political bromide, "what have you done for me lately?" to

Michigan Building  
Trades Council  
Legislative Conference

"Now that we have at least taken out a good portion of the trash, now we have to build for the future."

—Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist



MBCTC President Steve Claywell speaks to the legislative conference.

state Democrat lawmakers. That question was acknowledged, but could not be answered, by guest lawmakers addressing delegates of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's (MBCTC) 62nd Legislative Conference held March 5-6.

"Although we're extremely appreciate of the work that's been done, we know there's more work to do," said Steve Claywell, president of the MBCTC to the delegates. "There are a lot of specific priorities that we have. We're going to be moving and shaking on putting pressure on politicians, to make sure we're getting the value that our members deserve."

(Continued on Page 3)

Department of Labor's Egan:

## Pro-worker laws are good; more bite would make them better

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

LANSING – Could it be that the state Legislature's historic vote a year ago to restore Michigan's prevailing wage law was the easy part?

Now don't misunderstand – organized labor in Michigan is thrilled and gratified that the thin majority of state Democrats in the House and Senate concurrently repealed the state's right-to-work law and resurrected the Michigan Prevailing Wage Act in March 2023.

But a year later, for the state agency that administers prevailing wage and other worker-related functions in Michigan, the resurgence of organized labor's issues in the state is also pushing to the surface another reckoning. That is, properly administering and putting some teeth into Michi-



SEAN EGAN, a union electrician and state DOL leader, speaks at the Michigan Building Trades Council's Legislative Conference.

gan's new prevailing wage law is going to require more state resources – as is the case with the raft of other pro-worker legislation that labor unions want to see adopted this year by state lawmakers.

"We have to get more people in the Labor Department to enforce these laws that we think are important," said Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Deputy Director-Labor Sean Egan. "Otherwise we're not going to have the people to do it meaningfully and make sure that this prevailing wage law, which we helped write – is enforced the way that we want it enforced."

Egan made a presentation on March 5 to delegates at the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's 62nd Legislative Conference. He's a bit of a unicorn, even in the union-friendly administration of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. A union electrician, Egan is a former business manager of West Michigan IBEW Local 275. He's also an

(Continued on Page 3)

## 'Opportunity Roadshow' stops in Detroit

DETROIT – The most recent stop on the "National Opportunity Pipeline Roadshow" was IBEW Local 58 in Detroit, where local and national union officials, government and workplace planning advocates showcased union job opportunities.

The March 1 event at IBEW Local 58's union hall was part of a series of ongoing visits to local union halls and training centers across the country by officials at North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) over the past year. This forum, like the others, brought together the parties to discuss how union-trained workers are prepared for the \$1.2 trillion in federal infrastructure dollars that are starting to be doled out

to state projects.

"With the historic federal investments from the Biden Administration, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, NABTU is hitting the road to visit Building Trades Training Centers in every corner of America to promote our best-in-class training infrastructure and showcase how we are prepared to meet the moment and build the Infrastructure Generation," a NABTU statement said.

This event featured several participants, including NABTU President Sean McGarvey, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, Michigan Building and Construction Trades

Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin, MUST Construction Careers Director Cheryl Sanford, and host IBEW Local 58 Business Manager Paul VanOss. Additionally, throughout the event, attendees heard success stories from current apprentices that highlight the importance of apprenticeship readiness programs in Detroit and the strength of the building trades training model.

"You're going to hear about all this federal investment, we see it at the moment as an opportunity to provide an opportunity to the next generation of skilled trades professionals, what we like to call now the infrastructure generation. Never has there

(Continued on Page 2)



THE North America's Building Trades Union's National Opportunity Pipeline Roadshow stopped in Detroit on March 1 at IBEW Local 58, extolling the use of union trades to build the \$1.2 trillion-plus in U.S. infrastructure work that's in the pipeline. At the mic is Local 58 Business Manager Paul VanOss, with him on the dais (l-r) are Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin, Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, and Local 58 Assistant Business Manager James Peltier. Photo credit: Aly Darin

# Viewpoints



## 'Sustaining majority' for labor

Following are selected comments made March 5-6 by state lawmakers to delegates to the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's 62nd Legislative Conference.

**State Rep. Will Snyder (D-Muskegon).** "Fifteen months ago you helped make history to elect the first Democratic state majority in 40 years. In a matter of days we worked to enact the most pro-worker agenda our state has ever seen.

"We expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and rebranded it as the Working Families' Tax Credit. We repealed the retirement tax. We repealed right to work, and reinstated prevailing wage.

"And then we turned our attention to the budget, which was an historic budget that focused on the working people of Michigan.

"I want to leave with one message: all the work that we did, in one year, can be overturned in a matter of minutes. There's only one election that's more important than creating a new majority, and that's one that creates a sustaining majority for working people."

**State Rep. John Fitzgerald (D-Wyoming).** "We had 40 long years waiting for this moment. We earned this. Spreading the message that you the working people of Michigan deserve to have a majority who carries your voice into the Capitol dome each and every day. And it's a fragile moment. Without a sustaining majority, we have the opportunity to lose everything that we fought for, for another 10 to 20 years."

**State Rep. Donavan McKinney (D-Detroit).** Another issue is unemployment, we understand that you guys need support. First day I came into office I said I wanted to expand the unemployment benefit weeks. We need to make sure that those unemployment benefits are extended and increased. \$363 a week – what the hell are you gonna do on \$363 a week? We are one of the few states in the country, especially in our region, who have it that low. We need to at least double that to compete with other states.

"We don't know how long these times are going to last, and it depends on who you elect. Do not let us let up the gas on what we can do for labor."

**State Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan).** In the Legislature, I find myself sometimes in no-man's land, trying to argue against one party who seems to push policies and promote ideas that make it harder to go to work, and increases regulations, without considering the costs of everyday people who do the work. And another party who constantly focus on paying people as little as possible.

"I just tend to believe that both parties have too far extremes on either of those perspectives at a time and I'm trying to find other colleagues to come to the middle and make good policies because we need good regulations. But we can't be over-regulated and we need to make sure that people have every opportunity to leverage their labor for the maximum value they can get for them. I'm often times left somewhere in the middle."

**Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids).** "Back in 2012, the year I was first elected as state representative, I was sitting in the House chamber when Republicans brought back right to work. So for me it was a bit of a full-circle moment to be able to be in a position of authority as Senate majority leader in 2023. One of our first priorities was to repeal Michigan's so-called right-to-work legislation.

"The 2012 law was passed without committee hearings and without recognition of the outcry coming from working people. By repealing it, we restored workers' rights in Michigan. This ensures that working folks have the freedom to speak as one voice for better wages, better hours, for workplace safety and benefits. Allowing workers to organize is good for all Michiganders, whether they're part of a union or not. It uplifts the value of careers in the skilled trades."

**Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist.** "The fact that frankly so many of your members are working right now is one of the biggest testaments to success of the work we've done together. You did the organizing politically to make sure that we have the power to deliver the most pro-worker, pro-labor, pro-union Michigan Legislature in at least the past two generations.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and I are excited to work with this Democratic majority because we have more work to do. We might be in the first state that has actually restored workers' rights and workers' protections in almost 70 years to reinstate prevailing wage. We have a lot of stuff we need to erase from the previous Republican administration."

**State Rep. Betsy Coffia (D-Traverse City).** "So some of the other things that we've done with the majority you've helped deliver was reinstating prevailing wage, which I know was a very important issue. Workers should be paid a good, living wage, and that was something that the past administration had pulled back and eliminated. We were able to bring back prevailing wage last year on all state projects.

"There's a lot more work to do. I want to talk a bit about unemployment benefits. I know the building trades in particular, you deal with cyclical work cycles, and sometimes there are periods of unemployment. And I am well aware under the Snyder Administration back in 2012 while we were protesting on the Capitol lawn, they cut the number of benefit weeks from 26 to 20.

"We need to reinstate that, I fully support reinstating that back to 26 weeks and increasing the amount per week. I am well aware that our neighboring states have stronger unemployment benefits for those workers who are seasonally laid off. We need to make sure we are supporting our workers and their families who are seasonally laid off."

## Nice start in 2024 for state, U.S. construction

(Continued from Page 1)  
"But contractors are scrambling to find qualified workers, which is keeping more states from posting employment increases."

The AGC said the construction industry added 23,000 jobs in February – the most since August – as a strong gain in employment at nonresidential contractors offset a small decline at residential firms.

U.S. construction employment in February totaled 8,162,000, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 23,000 or 0.3 percent from the upwardly revised January total. The sector has added 215,000 jobs during the past 12 months, a gain of 2.7 percent. Michigan currently employs 191,800 construction industry workers.

Meanwhile, the Dodge Data and Analytics' Momentum Index for U.S. construction dropped 1.4 percent in February, led by weaker building in office and health care construction.

"However," said a March 7 statement from Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting for Dodge, "the index remains 25 percent higher than where it was just two years ago. Most other categories showed growth over the month and Dodge remains optimistic that nonresidential planning will stay elevated throughout 2024 alongside rising confidence in 2025 market conditions."

Between January 2023 and January 2024, 37 states, including Michigan, added construction jobs, while 13 states and the District of Columbia shed jobs.

## 'Opportunity Roadshow' makes stop in Detroit

(Continued from Page 1)  
been an opportunity in the United States since the Greatest Generation came back from World War 2 and built the middle class in the United States as we face right now," McGarvey said.

Said Stevens: "I had the privilege to be with President Sean McGarvey in Detroit at IBEW Local 58. I am proud to stand with NABTU and all our building trade union members and look forward to continue fighting for you all in Washington."

The March 1 event also highlighted Phase 2 of Local 58's Zero Net Energy Center, which will expand the union hall and integrate new technologies including energy storage, solar and interactive educational displays.

*The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and to shorten them. Please sign the letter and include a way to contact you.*

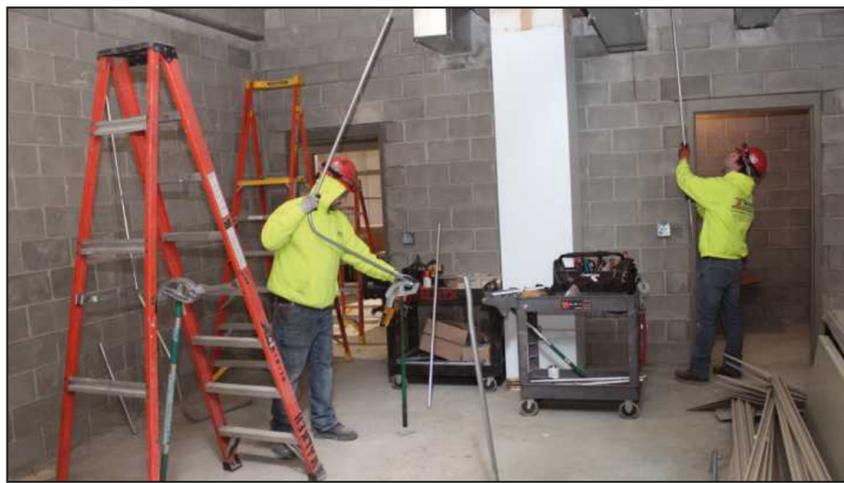
**How to contact us –**  
**By mail: Building Tradesman Editor**  
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216  
**e-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net**

*"I know that you believe that you understood what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."*

—Robert McCloskey, State Department spokesman

*"Getting caught is the mother of invention."*

—Robert Byrne



ELECTRICIANS (l-r) Ryan Kilburn and Dean Krueger bend and place conduit in a basement mechanical room at what will be the new Genesee County Building. They're employed by Walker Electric.

## Trades ready Genesee tower

(Continued from Page 1)  
total gut job. Some floors we're performing abatement, there's masonry work ongoing, other floors we're doing mechanical."

The day we visited, Feb. 7, was the first day of use for a buckhoist on the building's east face – a most welcome addition to a group of tradespeople who had been using a couple of regular building elevators for the ups and downs of moving themselves, tools and materials to their workplaces. Cornell said the team was about one month into the project, with a targeted completion of January 2025. About 40 tradespeople were working in the 160,000 square-foot building.

The building is the north tower of the old Citizens Bank complex, and is next to the Huntington National Bank building,

which supports Flint's iconic weather ball on its roof.

"It's a total renovation of the facility," said Joshua Freeman, Genesee County Director of Administration, to FlintBeat. He said the existing interior was "chopped up in a way that was not going to work" for the many departments meant to relocate there, including the County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Treasurer and Board of Commis-

sioners Offices.

The renovated building will house county employees from the current administration building, the Health and Human Services Building, the Community Action Resource Department and the Donald R. Haley Building.

The new one-stop facility for county business is expected to provide about \$500,000 in operational savings per year.

## How safety gets derailed

By Jim Hightower

"Corporate crises consultants" (yes, there are such creatures) have patented a formula allowing their wrongdoing clients to champion reform while simultaneously killing it.

A classic case is now unfolding around last year's derailment of a two-mile-long Norfolk Southern freight train in East Palestine, Ohio.

The community's air, soil, water, and people suffered a massive spill of toxic chemicals.

So, following the corporate crisis script, **Step One** was for the CEO to offer "thoughts and prayers" for victims. **Step Two:** Reject corporate blame, but promise a "thorough investigation." **Step Three:** Magnanimously pledge to work with lawmakers to prevent future disasters. And **Step Four:** Quietly unleash your pack of lobbyists to get any effective change in the law.

Norfolk honchos are now pushing hard on Step Four. CEO Alan Shaw recently reiterated the corporation's promise of reform, but – shhhh – he quietly orchestrated a \$17 million increase in the rail industry's Congressional lobbying to kill or drastically weaken safety proposals that Norfolk had publicly embraced after the wreck.

But he keeps talking reform, slyly assuring locals that Norfolk Southern would be "continuing our engagement" with lawmakers.

"Engagement" is a euphemism for payments. Rail executives have poured beaucoup bucks into such compliant Congress critters as Troy Nehls, the Republican chair of a rail safety subcommittee. He recently wailed that Congress must not impose "more burdensome regulations and all this other stuff" on the poor multibillion-dollar giants.

Also, Sen. John Thune, an industry-financed asset who formerly was a lobbyist for railroads(!), has tried to derail even modest safety proposals following last year's derailment, callously calling them a "stalking horse for onerous regulatory mandates and union giveaways." May I just say the obvious? These people are disgusting excuses for human beings.

## Just joking

Yankel and Moishe ride a train together, thinking about their brides - whom they're about to meet for the first time.

Suddenly, Yankel stands up and says, "I'm not ready for marriage. I'm not getting married!" He grabs his suitcase and runs off the train at the next stop.

Moishe watches him go. A day later Moishe reaches his destination, where the two mothers of the prospective brides are shocked to discover there's only one groom on the train. An argument ensues.

"He's mine!"  
"Not on your life! He'll marry my daughter!"

Moishe lets his prospective mothers-in-law argue over him for a while, then suggests they all go to the rabbi for a ruling. The moms make their case, and the rabbi offers a solution.

"The solution is plain, per the wisdom of King Solomon," said the rabbi. "Cut the young man in two, and each of you take half."

The first mother looks shocked, and says "no, that's ridiculous!"

The second mother says, "Great idea! Cut him in half!"

The rabbi responds, "I don't know which of your daughters should get the husband, but it's obvious," he pointed to the second mother, "that you're the real mother-in-law!"



**The Building Tradesman** ISSN-007-3717  
is the Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council

Patrick Devlin Secretary-Treasurer  
Steve Claywell President

Visit our website: [www.michiganbuildingtrades.org](http://www.michiganbuildingtrades.org)

*The Building Tradesman* is published bi-weekly (every other Friday) by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, Detroit office. 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Subscription Rate \$15 annually (group rate for unions)

**The Building Tradesman**  
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216  
Phone: (313) 961-3800  
Fax: (313) 961-2467  
*Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.*

**Editor/Photographer**  
Marty Mulcahy  
E-mail: [buildingtradesman@ameritech.net](mailto:buildingtradesman@ameritech.net)

**Advertising Director**  
Joe Hoshaw  
E-mail: [btads@ameritech.net](mailto:btads@ameritech.net)  
(734) 558-6955

Periodical mail postage paid at Detroit, MI and additional mailing offices.

Printed at Grand Blanc Printing, a union shop

**AIELLO LAW GROUP PLLC**

**Construction Injury Specialists**  
Representing Trades Workers and their families over 25 years

**WORKERS' COMP**  
**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY**  
**CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT LITIGATION**  
**ESTATE PLANNING - ELDER LAW**

Our associates also handle:  
**UNEMPLOYMENT • ANY INJURY CASE**  
**ASBESTOS/TOXIC EXPOSURES**

3000 Town Center, Suite 1820, Southfield, MI 48075  
**(313) 964-4900 - (800) 881-8896**  
*www.aiellolawgroup.com email: [mad@aiellolawgroup.com](mailto:mad@aiellolawgroup.com)*

**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION • VALIDATED PARKING**

**Mark Aiello**

**BRICKLAYERS WANTED**

**\$37.20 HR \$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS**  
PLUS HEALTH & PENSION  
**BRICKLAYERS.ORG**

**Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers**  
**Local 2 members:**

**\$2,000 Signing Bonus for Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers!**

BAC Local 2- Michigan is offering up to a \$2,000 Signing Bonus for **Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers and Masonry Restoration Workers** who join now and who stay working for our contractors!

**Journeyman Bricklayers in the Metro Detroit Area get \$37.20 an hour, plus fully paid Health Insurance, and 2 Pensions. Our Contractors have immediate opening for Skilled Bricklayers, and Masonry Restoration Workers.**

For more information go to: [bricklayers.org](http://bricklayers.org)

# BUILDING MICHIGAN: The Detroit Produce Terminal HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



LEAFY GREENS, STRAWBERRIES, potatoes, you name it – fruits and vegetables grown locally and throughout North and South America are moved in and out of the Detroit Produce Terminal every day, and have been since 1929. More than three football fields long, the terminal's railroad company owner's architects used different-colored brick and vertical concrete pilasters fronting Fort Street to add some interest to the exterior, although backed-in trucks dominate the view.

Photo credit: Produce News

Since 1929, the Detroit Produce Terminal hasn't changed its footprint much, nor has it changed its mission.

Fresh fruits and vegetables arrive daily from Michigan and across the U.S. and other countries in the Western Hemisphere. They're organized for shipment, and then exit via trucks for distribution to regional and far-flung restaurants, food service companies and grocery stores.

The bi-level produce terminal, at Fort and Green streets in Southwest Detroit, is a fixture in the area for the ever-present trucks backed into loading bays visible from Fort Street, as well as the iconic rooftop "Detroit Produce Terminal" sign that westbound drivers can't miss.

"Built by the Wabash, Pere Marquette and Pennsylvania Railroads, the Detroit Produce Terminal was constructed to give Detroit an efficient method of produce distribution. It took only 150 days to build the entire terminal," said Charles K. Hyde in *The Lower Peninsula of Michigan, An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*.

At one time railroads delivered much of the product that arrived at the terminal, but their presence steadily declined over the years. There is still a rail spur into the facility that allows for incoming fruits and vegetables, but most of the goods these days are moved via trucks.

According to industry newsletter *Produce Business*, today the 168,000-square-foot facility is home to seven produce companies. The terminal's tenants formed a market collective in the 1990s, with a property management firm taking control in 2003.

"With rare exception, every vegetable or piece of fruit bought from an independent grocer or gourmet market in southeast Michigan or southern Ontario since 1929 has passed through the stalls in the terminal's historic buildings," said *DBusiness*.

In 1929, the new terminal replaced a completely inadequate method of fruit and vegetable distribution system for the city – produce sales were made directly from rail cars at various yards in the city. Fruit and vegetable buyers would appear at railway yards at 2 a.m. and rail agents would try to direct them to where cars were spotted at various locations. Spoilage and inefficiency were rampant. So the railways decided that the growing city deserved a centralized place to receive and distribute fruits and vegetables, and they underwrote construction of the Detroit Produce Terminal with a \$5 million investment.

"Actual construction of the new terminal followed a most extensive study and survey of



TRUCKERS WAIT for produce at the Detroit Produce Terminal's loading dock in an undated photo. A March 1941 truck blockade of the terminal by the Teamsters led to a union organizing win of employees at the terminal.

Photo credit: Detroit News archives

other produce terminals in the country, and no expense was spared in construction to make the Detroit facilities meet the problems of the produce trade in that city," said a December 1929 article in *Railway Age*. "As a result, the new facilities are not only modern in every respect, but incorporate a number of unusual features in both construction and operation."

The trio of railway companies established the Green Real Estate Co. to build the terminal on a 40-acre site near their rail lines.

Engineering and design plans were commenced on Jan. 15, 1929. Construction began on Feb. 21, and "by July 1, the regular routine of the terminal was in full operation with many of the facilities taxed to the utmost," said *Railway Age*. Several more weeks of work created the onsite banana building to handle the yellow fruit.

Hyde's *Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites* said the main Building A is a two-story reinforced concrete structure with dimensions of 1,040 feet by 70 feet. "The first floor is a flat slab type while the second floor and roofs are of the beam and girder design. The top floor is composed of offices and auction floors while the bottom floors are for display purposes." The bottom floor, with the bulk delivery platforms, have a series of 14-by-8-foot doors that open straight up to accommodate trucks.

*Railway Age* said the complex was unique in the nation because it included modern second-floor office space for produce dealers, and the auction space. And the terminal's extensive frontage on Fort Street, the publication said, "demanded that the exterior of the building be attractive in appearance."

"The principal architectural problem involved was the choice of a treatment which would avoid a squatty appearance in two-story buildings of

great length," *Railway Age* said. "In solving this problem, iron spot buff bricks with a range of color were used in panels between concrete pilasters, with ornamental tapered finials extending above the parapets. In addition, the vertical lines were exaggerated as much as possible, with pleasing results as to the proportions of the buildings."

Inside, granite chips were spread into the setting concrete floors to increase their wearability. Considerable plans were made for the interior layout so that traffic would flow freely. With rail cars first refrigerated by ice blocks, the facility had an extensive ice distribution system. Floors were pitched to drain melting ice to the building's center drain system.

Auctions for bulk buyers of fruits and vegetables took place early in the morning, and house rules dictated that all produce placed on terminal floors must be sold by 3 p.m., guaranteeing freshness and clearing the way for the next day's sales. More than 50,000 railcar loads of goods were handled in the produce terminal's first year.

The Wabash Railway, a participating owner, on June 27, 1929, called it "a remarkable facility. Detroit is to be congratulated for its enterprise and ingenuity in erecting the plant.... The fruit and vegetable industry is to be congratulated on having in America's fourth city a Union Terminal which surpasses every kindred venture in the United States."

Today some of the produce terminal tenants include Ben B. Schwartz & Sons, Rocky's Produce and Leonardo's Produce. The fruits and vegetables that move through the building run the gamut. Schwartz alone sources produce from more than 300 growers, distributing more than 12 million pounds annually, according to *The Packer*, an industry newsletter. Their distribution reaches as far south as Georgia and Texas, and as far east as New Hampshire.

"Demand in the Michigan region continues to be strong, especially with a lot of local, independent retailers and enough market share for retailers at both the national and local levels to thrive," *The Packer* said.

Detroit is well-positioned for the produce terminal. "The demand for quality and value is as high as any market in the country," said Riggio Distribution President Dominic Riggio to *Produce Business* in December. "Geographically, Detroit benefits from local sources in-season, in conjunction with shipped-in product year-round."



THEN – THIS PHOTO was taken on Oct. 2, 1933 – and now, the interior of the produce terminal has been a hive of activity, with workers moving all manner of fruits and vegetables quickly in and out of the facility.

Photo credit: Detroit News archives

# With fragile majority, trades urge Dems to finish the job for labor

(Continued from Page 1)

Lansing Democrats adopted a whopping 300-plus pieces of legislation into law last year, many of them pro-labor, many of them overturning statewide laws and regulations pushed through by big-business-backed Republican lawmakers over the years.

But with such thin majorities, especially in the House, the legislative agenda being pushed by organized labor slowed significantly in the waning months of 2023 – and left undone were a number of major and minor issues of importance to the state's working people.

And lawmaking essentially came to a full stop in November, when Dems temporarily lost the majority when two House members ran, and won, mayoral positions in their hometowns of Warren and Westland. A 54-54 tie is now in place between Democrats and Republicans. Special elections scheduled for April 16 to fill those House vacancies are expected to restore the Democratic House majority in Lansing.

"So at the end of 2023 we were able to send over 300 bills to the governor's desk for her signature," said House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit) to the delegates. "And that was the first time that that happened since 2011. We wanted to show that we were governing. Everyone knows the big-ticket items that we were really focused on. Repealing right to work, reinstating prevailing wage. Expanding EITC (the Earned Income Tax Credit), repealing the pension tax and putting in a budget that supports training and education and our labor friends."

"At the end of the day, teams win. But sometimes it gets kind of messy over there (at the state Capitol) because of the margin of people we do have. But us being able to stay focused on teams winning, we have been able to accomplish a lot, and we're going to continue that."

The administration of GOP Gov. Rick Snyder (2011-2018) infamously signed the Republican bills to institute a right-to-work law in Michigan and to repeal the Prevailing Wage Act of 1965. But they also signed legislation that made Michigan the first state in the nation to reduce Unemployment Compensation benefits from 26 weeks to 20 weeks. They also adopted legislation severely limiting employee access to Workers' Compensation benefits. Reversing all of that, and more, are on the to-do list for organized labor in Michigan.

Most voters are aware of what happened to the Michigan Legislature following the statewide elections in November 2022. Voters elected a razor thin 56-54 majority of Democrats in the House, then elected Dems to a similarly tiny 20-18 edge in the Senate. Together with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Dems since January 2023 have held a controlling "trifecta" of state government for the first time in 40 years.

"In Michigan, for many years, the deck has been stacked against unions and working people," state Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint) told delegates. "In this past year, we have spent some time trying to unstack that deck. Repealing the right to work law, restoring the prevailing wage law, restoring collective bargaining rights for public sector unions."

"And I'm happy we were able to deliver on those. But there's more work we need to do. Start working on some things that go directly to a worker's life. Like making sure we have an unemployment system that serves as a meaningful and relevant safety net for folks when they get laid off. Like making sure we have a workers' comp system that

actually helps somebody, or God forbid, the family, of someone who has been hurt or killed while working on the job.

"We need to make sure that we bring better working conditions for people, whether that means making sure we go after wage theft, making sure we have proper enforcement of MIOSHA regulations, or cracking down on child labor. These are things that we need to do this year."

Lieutenant Gov. Garlin Gilchrist put it this way: "Now that we have at least taken out a good portion of the trash, now we have to build for the future."

State Rep. Jim Haadsma (D-Battle Creek), who chairs the House Labor Committee, explained why more pro-labor legislation didn't move last year. He said the thin majority means that one or two reluctant lawmakers among the Dems can quash any legislation. "It's not from my perspective a very manageable majority," Haadsma told delegates. "We need a couple more members because the tail wags the dog sometimes. We have a back-bencher of the 56 and it's not always the same one, who says I don't think I can vote for this."

Haadsma said count him in on reforming the Michigan Workers' Compensation Disability Act, which he said was "changed very negatively toward Michigan workers back in 2011." He also said he's on board with

restoring the benefit weeks for jobless compensation from 20 weeks back to 26 weeks, and upping the benefit amount. Republican lawmakers during the Snyder Administration, he said, "acted boldly and managed to do a whole lot of stuff that was deleterious to workers. My objective is to get much of that repealed."

The good news for organized labor is that while those thin majorities in the House and Senate offer no guarantees, the passage of that pro-worker legislation has many supporters – and perhaps the needed unanimity among Dems.

Several speakers at the conference noted that with 2024 being an election year, and with the delay in utilizing their majority this year, time will be short for Dems in getting legislation adopted.

"You should feel as though organized labor is welcome into the house of power in ways that it hasn't before," said State Rep. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing). "My door is always open, and our members, especially on the Democratic side, have a mandate from leadership to take your issues seriously. It is a new day in the halls of power in Michigan, and you should know that and feel that."

"You are in a position to demand, in this moment in time, what you feel is important to your members. Those of us who are elected on the state level, and the local and federal level, need to take your concerns seriously."

# Pro-worker laws are good; more bite would make them better

(Continued from Page 1)

attorney who worked as general counsel to IBEW Local 876. Egan is probably the highest-ranking union member in Whitmer's government, and certainly, is its biggest advocate for organized labor. But he wasn't shy about telling delegates that the Whitmer Administration and state lawmakers need to do more for workers in Michigan after decades of benign neglect, and prevailing wage enforcement is just the start.

"We're continuing to fight for working people," Egan said. "One of the things I'm most proud of is in the labor areas I oversee, MIO-SHA, Workers' Comp, Wage and Hour, and the Bureau of Employment Relations, is bringing a worker-first mentality to our department. And I have to tell you, that's not shared across the State of Michigan, either administratively, or in our departments, all of the time."

"So what a pro-worker mindset means, is that we think about workers first. But what I deal with all the time is a pro-business mentality, let's think about business first, and if workers get something, I guess that's OK. Is that good enough for us? That's not good enough for me. I think a strong regulatory structure is important. Do you think it's important for workplaces to be safe, fair, to take care of you if you're injured, to provide unemployment benefits if you're laid off? That seems like pretty basic stuff to me. I don't know what's so god-damn hard?"

Democrats in the state House lost two members – and their thin 56-54 majority – last November when two of their caucus won mayoral elections in Warren and Westland. With special elections in April expected to restore the Dem majority in the House, the state's labor unions are sharpening their demands for passage of more pro-worker legislative actions.

Two of the items at the top of labor's list are restoring Unemployment Compensation benefit weeks and rescinding laws that restricted Workers' Compensation benefits.

But Egan, while supporting those greater worker benefits, said the state has existing deficiencies in policing and administering current labor laws. "First and foremost," he said, "we need a bigger and better Department of Labor. We want a Department of Labor that's going to push issues and push a real pro-worker agenda across the State of Michigan."

To illustrate his point, some numbers, according to Egan: "In the Wage and Hour Division, the state has one investigator for every 290,000 workers in Michigan. "So we just got prevailing wage restored; we did not get extra people," to enforce it, Egan said. A request for 27 more employees went unheeded by the state, which would have brought that investigator ratio down to about one in 150,000 workers. "Most of the other states that we look at that we like, that aren't Mississippi, are around one in 100,000 workers," Egan said. "Guess what's in the recommended budget: zero."

Similarly, 43 more personnel were requested for MIO-SHA, then that was pared down to 24. But, again, the current state budget has no money for increased personnel.

"The DOL requested a new program, focused on workplace mental health, which would require extra personnel. Again, zero money has been budgeted so far."

In total for the above requests, Egan said, "that's about \$14 million annually we've asked for. Does that sound like a lot in a budget of \$82 billion? No? Doesn't sound like a lot to me, either. But we got goose eggs all across the board."

"Why is it so difficult to understand that when we win, everybody wins?" Egan said. "I'll keep pushing, you keep pushing, and we'll keep coming back to these (conferences) and commiserating about all the b.s. we have to deal with because people are too chickens--- to stand up for working people and be loud and proud about union membership and why it's so important."

NETA  
ACCREDITED COMPANY

Utilities  
Instrumentation  
Service

Michigan's #1 Electrical Testing Firm

- Licensed Electricians with the State of Michigan (IBEW-JIW)
- Member of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
- Full Member of the International Electrical Testing Association (NETA)
- ISO/IEC 17025 Accredited

Electrical Testing & Commissioning

- Protective Relays • Transformers • Commissioning & Technical Support • Switchgear • Breakers • Infrared & Ultrasonic Survey • Cable Locating • VLF & Tan Delta Testing • Partial Discharge • Meters • Grounding • Generator Controls • ATS • UPS • Battery Systems • Motor Control Centers • Switches • Capacitor Banks

Electrical Studies & Training

- Short Circuit/Device Coordination Studies • Arc Flash/Shock Hazard Studies • Harmonic/Power Factor/Transient Studies & Corrections
- Electrical Safety & Troubleshooting • NFPA 70E

Contact UIS

866-967-9464

www.teamuis.com



## Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers 7

LANSING – NOTICE: This Newspaper Article shall serve as Official Notice of ALL meetings for Local 7!

The next Statewide Meeting will be, April 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.  
\*Zone 1 May 9 at 6:00 p.m.

- \*Zone 2 May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 3 March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)
- \*Zone 3 June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- \*Zone 4 May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 5 April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Moved from April 4<sup>th</sup>)

Please register on our website at [www.sheetmetal7.org](http://www.sheetmetal7.org) for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2024. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

NEWS: Local No. 7 – Union Hoodies available through the Lansing office for \$70.00/each (While supplies last). Hoodies are Gray, Black or Navy with White logo. Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.

SMART Union Labels: Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. Make sure that you are scanning labels in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at [www.labelscantireport.com](http://www.labelscantireport.com) and download the official app by texting “SMART” to 90975.

SMART Members Assistance Program provides counselors to speak with members experiencing crisis. Call (877) 884-6227 for 24/7 assistance with Suicide Prevention and Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

ZONE 1 Info. Work in the Zone 1 area remains busy and will increase as we get into spring and summer. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

ZONE 1 Training Center Info. There are new changes to the testing procedure in Zone 1. Applicants will need to register for the Zone 1 entrance exam. Registration will open at the beginning of the exam month. You will receive your exam time during registration. Please contact the training coordinator to register (269) 781-7183.

ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:  
1st Wednesday of each month @ 8:00 am located at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1:00 pm located at Rocky Top 1900 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014

(Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like)

- In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains steady and looks good through the spring. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month. If your employment status changes please let me know and apprentices also let Cody know. Also keep me informed of any phone number or address changes. Friendly reminder with spring here it's camping season, don't forget about the Local 7 picnic at Timber Ridge Resort in Traverse City, July 20th it will be a great time with lots of food, games and door prizes hope to see you there. In Solidarity, Mike Adams

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the area has slowed down at this time. If you are laid off please call me there may be work in other area's or in other Locals with you want to travel. Please make sure you schedule your physicals this year to keep your deductible at the lower rate. If you change your phone numbers or address please remember to contact me or the Lansing office to let us know. Retiree meeting is March 26th at the Ponderosa on Wilder Rd in Bay City. In Solidarity, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City). Our next meeting is on March 21st at the Mill Pond event center. Please be in attendance as we will be going over agenda on our next contract. Make sure your dues are paid for the month of April as you will not be able to vote on the contract without a current receipt that was paid in advance in March as per our Constitution. Work in our area has slowed down but should pick back up in May, there is work in other areas if you get laid off. The SASMI underemployment benefit eligibility is under 700 hours worked from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Anyone eligible has been sent an application that has to be sent in by March. Also, you can go to [www.ourbenefitoffice.com/smw7-3/benefits](http://www.ourbenefitoffice.com/smw7-3/benefits) to register and get a wealth of information on your H&W and local pension status as with the NPF, go to [www.smnwfp.org](http://www.smnwfp.org) and register to see to your future benefit. In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

ZONE 4 Info: Local 7 Zone 4 is experiencing a positive wave of progress and opportunities, with a lot of hard work from apprentices we have been successful with some very nice grants from the State, for our training facility and the apprentices. They are able to acquire personal items that allow them to make being a Sheet metal worker a little easier. Also don't forget 3/12/24 is our next Flint Union meeting. As spring approaches, let's stay focused, united and prepared for the exciting times ahead. Together, we build a stronger and more prosperous local community. Shoot Straight and tight lines. Your Brother Scott Brotherton

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the U.P. is busy and should stay that way through spring now. The Local 7 statewide picnic is July 20 at the Timber Ridge Resort in Traverse City. Also our next Zone 5 meeting has changed dates to Friday April 5 at 6 pm in Gwinn. The retirees are also holding their first meeting of the year at The Drydock in Harvey on April 10 at 10 AM. - In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld

Dues Department: \*Online dues payment is now available\* Dues of all members of local unions shall be paid monthly or quarterly, but always in advance. To better serve our membership, we accept Credit Card Payments in lieu of your monthly dues. If you would like to take advantage of the Credit Card Service, a finance charge will be applied - Please call the Lansing office during regular business hours at 517-882-4064 to make your payment.

Address/Telephone Changes: Article 8, Section 1 of Local 7 Work Rules: Address Changes: All members are required to keep the Financial Secretary informed of their correct address. A noticed mailed to the last address shall be sufficient and legal. If you have moved or changed your telephone number, please contact the union hall to update your records.

BENEFITS: For Benefit questions please contact the area office. Zone 1 – BeneSys 866-822-7037, Zone 2 – TIC 866-887-4338, Zone 3 – BeneSys 800-451-5733, Zone 4 – BeneSys 800-842-2690 and Zone 5 – Wisconsin H & B Fund 800-654-2329.

DEATH CERTIFICATES: Please submit to the Union Hall a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased members. Additional benefits from the International may be available.

CONTACT: 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing, MI; 517-882-4064

Local 7 Officers:  
Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223

Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200

Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752

Joe Dotson (Saginaw) 989-225-0095

John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112

Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552

Brandon Langenfeld (Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Member meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com) for the location and date.

The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on March 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at 1-800-448-8326 or [www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com) for completely confidential assistance. Ulliance is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Services are of no cost to members and their dependents.

SMART 292 APP: Our new Local 292 App is now live. It is available to all dues-paying members. Download is available through your App Store. Search SMART Local 292. There will be a short waiting period for the verification process.

RETURN TO WORK BY NORMAL OR EARLY RETIREES: Consistent with the actions of the Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund, the Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local No. 292 Pension Fund (“Fund”) have decided to provide a limited waiver of the Fund’s suspension of benefit rule from March 22, 2023 through December 31, 2024 only, without limitation and without incurring a suspension of benefits then in pay status. This means that, during this period, if you are working as a sheet metal worker for an Employer that contributes to the Fund, you will receive your monthly pension benefits from the Fund no matter how many hours you work in any one month. This waiver is based on the current demand for sheet metal workers and is not anticipated to be continued indefinitely. Call Paul for more information or if interested.

OUT OF WORK LIST: If you become laid off, you Must complete an Out of Work List Registration /SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and also through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

TRUHEARING: On behalf of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292, we would like to introduce TruHearing, the NEW exclusive provider of premium hearing aid benefits. This benefit is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org) or access it through the “links” tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com). Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your Password is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues are required to be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online ([sheetmetal292.com](http://sheetmetal292.com)).

LOCAL 292 ONLINE STORE: The online store is no longer available. If you are interested in purchasing merchandise, please contact Paul or Tony.

ADDRESS UPDATES: If you move, please get in touch with the union hall to update your address.

RETIRES NOTICE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The 2024 schedule for the Local 292 Retiree luncheon is as follows: April 4, June 6, August 1, and October 3. We will post the date of the December meeting at a later date.

The retirees’ luncheon will be held at: Tavern on the Main @ 12:30 p.m., 235 S Main Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It is located 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street.

Please contact the union hall via our website [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the “Contact Us” page if you want to be added to the retiree email list.

Please join us for lunch, great conversations, and storytelling. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The Constitution and Ritual of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall will also has hard copies for members who want one.

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have been receiving Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member’s responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

UNION HALL HOURS: Hall office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: We have recently updated the text blast contact list. All members have been added. If you haven’t been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please contact the Union Hall and we will make the change.

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com); Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292.

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The “4-plus” member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, hard hat stickers, and bragging rights. If you would like to be a “4-plus” member contact your Local 292 Training Center at 313-623-9390 (Dave) or Quintin 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on April 6, April 13, & April 20.

These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone who signs up for a class, must pay a \$40.00 registration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are NON-Refundable if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice School.

Call the Apprentice School at 248-589-3237, Dave’s cell 313-623-9390 or Quintin’s cell 248-495-6764 to reserve a spot. Remember we must have the deposit before you will be scheduled in the class.

“Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all – the apathy of human beings.”  
–Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

“I never feel age... If you have creative work, you don't have age or time.”  
–Louise Nevelson (1900 - 1988)



## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

SOUTHFIELD – This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

\*\*MEETING DATE CHANGE\*\* April's union meeting will be on April 16, 2024, at 5:30pm.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Southfield, MI.

TIM

MULLIGAN  
UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS  
Monday through Friday 7:30 – 4:00, unless otherwise indicated in holiday hours.

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2024 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: April 15, June 17, Aug. 19, Oct. 21 (holiday party) and Dec. 16. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

RETIREE NEWS: Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees’ association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership meeting schedule above.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY you will need to start sending your unemployment proof to [smw80subfund@gmail.com](mailto:smw80subfund@gmail.com) or fax it to 248-557-0297. Your unemployment proof needs to be in by 2pm on Tuesdays to be paid on that Friday. Local 80 will be handling all of your proof now. If you have any questions, please call us at 248-557-7575.

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: There will now be a representative from Benesys at the union hall to help our members with anything related to benefits or funds. She will be available all day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-4pm. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please contact Lashone at 248-813-9800 ext. 3250.

WAGE ALLOCATION: We will be voting on this year’s wage allocation at the April union meeting. April’s meeting will be on April 16, 2024 at 5:30pm.

RESIDENTAL & SERVICE WAGE ALLOCATION: There will be a wage allocation vote for service and residential on April 18, 2024 at the union hall. The residential vote will be at 4:30pm and the service vote will be at 5:00 pm.

RETIREMENT CLASS: Saturday May 4 at 9am we will be hosting a FREE retirement education class with Graystone Consulting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions about your retirement plans. Please call the hall to rsvp 248-557-7575. Spouses are welcome.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: William Nelson, Eugene Hartsuck, Mark Majewski, William Derr, Michael Jones, Robert Abramczyk, Mark Monette, Marshal Nations, Ryan Stolber, Ron Jones, Harold Knapp, Scott Denver, Kevin Armstrong, Mark Brabeau, Eric Keteluh, Steven Cesario, Martin Duras, Lucy Petrykowski, Gary McNutt, Cameron Schafer, Michael Stolber, Chris Steer, Seth LaTour, Anthony Calca, Jared Petit, Caleb Kaminski, Alan Dickson, Jason Lemke and Eric Powers.

DUES PAYMENTS: YOUR DUES PAYMENTS ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE FIRST OF THE MONTH. The books will close at the end of the business day on the last day of the month. Payments made on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month are considered late for that month. There will be no exception, once the books are closed it cannot be undone. Members will receive a text message dues reminder prior to the end of the month. If you are not receiving our text messaging, please call the hall. REMINDER: We ONLY take Visa, Master Card & Discover and do not accept American Express.

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your Local 80 and international benefits. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your spouse first and if there is no spouse to your children UNLESS you designate otherwise in writing with each specific benefit. Depending on your classification you could have benefits due to your heirs from Local 80 pension, insurance, annuity and from international and SASMI. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary unless you want it to go to your spouse or children. As always seek the advice of an attorney.

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall which includes the tradesman paper. You will need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well. That is not done through the hall.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH and DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Members who have their dues paid in advance (prior to the month of the accident) are eligible for accidental death and dismemberment benefits up to \$7,500.00. This benefit comes as a dues paying member of SMART International.

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Saturday and Sunday work assignments. Please remember that when performing work on a Saturday or Sunday the steward must report it to the hall, give each members name and obtain a form for signatures. Each member must sign the form along with the number of hours they worked. The completed form must be sent back to by hall by the end of the day on the following Monday. Weekend work assignments must be called or emailed into the hall prior to 3:00 pm on Friday.

WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Everyone must obtain a work assignment prior to starting work. If you fail to do so you could be written up on charges.

LAY-OFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven (7) days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

LAY-OFF SLIPS/TERMINATION NOTICES: Lay off slips must accompany all applications for sub pay. Without lay off slips you cannot collect sub pay. It is the member’s responsibility to make sure they get one from the contractor when laid off. Your application cannot be submitted without one. It is the contractor’s responsibility to issue one in accordance with our contract.

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven (7) days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and September 1 through September 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you work 16 hours or less in a week or have a short work week due to weather you may

(Continued on Page 5)



**Laborers Local 1191**  
2161 West Grand Boulevard,  
Detroit, MI 48208)

**DETROIT – Regular Membership Updates:** Please check out our website at [www.laborers-local1191.org](http://www.laborers-local1191.org) and the “Laborers’ Local 1191” Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

**Member Personal Information Updates:** Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

**Monthly General Membership Meetings:** General Membership meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. (except for holidays). **The next General Membership Meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 2024. May’s General Membership meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2024.**

**Monthly Retiree Council Meetings:** Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The next Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024 (Good Friday). April’s Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 2024.**

**Union Dues For 2024:** Regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org)!!! To make online dues payments, click the “Pay Dues” tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

**Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments:** According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**

**Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the “Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction” forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you. FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!!!**

**New Projects:** Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be

your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

**Referral List:** Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1-4 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. FYI: It is the Member’s responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!

**Roll Call:** All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first five days of the following months: **March, June, September and December.** Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list. \*Example: If your name is on the list in April and or May and you don’t re-register by June 5<sup>th</sup> your name will be removed from the list.

**Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or by visiting the training school website at [www.mltai.org](http://www.mltai.org) to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

**Training:** Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI’s online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types of training you can take include, but are not limited to: OSHA 30, Asbestos Awareness, Silica Awareness, Infectious Disease Awareness, Respirator Awareness, Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens Awareness, and Lead Awareness. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. **By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well.** If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.must-safe.com](http://www.must-safe.com) to see how many modules you have.

**Beneficiary Reminder:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare fund documents. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable if/when no beneficiary has been designated. **Each of the above individual benefits needs to have a designated beneficiary.**

**Death Certificates:** Please (Continued next column)



## Local 169 Boilermakers

**Boilermakers Local 169**

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **April 12, 2024, at 8pm** at The United Trades Building, 119 S. Front Street, Marquette, Michigan 49855.

Current Union dues for 2024 are \$55.85 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

In an effort to assist our active members, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has waived any increase in dues for the 2024. Dues for the 2024 year will remain at \$55.85.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) for more information.

Any member interested in taking the Great Lakes Safety for Corteva, contact Area 3 Business Agent, Mike Card, 989-662-6491.

**Dinner Dance 2024. It was held Feb. 10 at the Atheneum Hotel in Detroit.** Please visit our website [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) and our Facebook page for pictures from the festivities.

**Retiree luncheons.** Area 1 Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge.

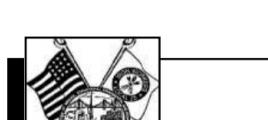
Area 2 Retirees hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11am at Whitlow’s Forerunner Restaurant, 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome.

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. at 11AM at The Green Spot Pub, 808 N. Mission Rd., Mount Pleasant, MI. 48858. All area boilermakers and retirees are welcome to attend.

Area 4 Retirees’ lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads (Continued next column)

**Local 1191 cont’d**  
always submit to the Local Union a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired members. **FYI: The death certificate is required for any designated beneficiary to receive available benefits.**

**IMPORTANT UNION BENEFIT CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
Michigan Laborers’ Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension)  
\* Telephone: (877) 645-2267  
\* Fax: (517) 689-6016  
\* Website: [www.michiganlaborers.org](http://www.michiganlaborers.org)  
\* Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149  
\* Metropolitan Detroit Laborers’ (Pension)  
\* Telephone: (248) 641-4942  
\* Fax: (248) 813-9898  
\* Metropolitan Detroit Laborers’ (Healthcare)  
\* Telephone: (800) 228 0048



## Local 25 Iron Workers

**Iron Workers Local 25**

NOVI – **The April Union meeting will be Monday April 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm** and will be in person and zoom. We will conduct the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading of the proposed By-Law Proposal and review the wage allocation proposals. All Union Halls will be open.

**On Wednesday, April 10, 2023 we will conduct Voting** for the By-Law Proposal and the June Wage Allocation Vote. All Union Halls will be open from 12:00 pm (noon) until 7:00 pm. A member is considered “eligible” to vote who is in good standing. Union Dues must be paid through March 2024 or better. Apprentice, pre-apprentice, probationary, honorary and lifetime members, not being full dues paying members, are NOT eligible to vote.

**Steward meeting(s):** The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. All are welcome!

Communications Alerts & E-mails; sign up via our website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org)). We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS.** You can download our APP for android on google play or for iPhone at the APP store just search “Iron Workers Local 25” Martinez web shop.

**IMPORTANT: Dependent Eligibility Verification for Health Insurance Benefits coverage is in its final round. PDA**

**Local 169 cont’d**  
Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Rd. 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45.00. Payments can be made with cash or check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at [www.boilermakerslocal169.org](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.org) or on our Facebook page.

The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.

Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability.

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

Doug Saez passed away suddenly on Feb. 29, 2024. Please keep his friends and family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Retiree, John Kriesel passed away on Nov. 22, 2023. Please keep his friends and family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Retiree, John Hall passed away suddenly on March 7, 2024. Please keep his friends and family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Retiree, Karl Peckstein passed away on March 7, 2024. Please keep his friends and family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

**Verification Team from Livonia MI is conducting this audit.**

All members who have dependents (spouse and/ or children) on their health care must comply. If you missed the mailing somehow, watch your mail for this final mailing coming soon!! PLEASE RESPOND RIGHT AWAY WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR LETTER AS THIS IS VERY TIME SENSITIVE AND CRITICAL TO YOUR CONTINUED COVERAGE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.

**HRA/Benny Card Audit is under way and has been mailed out – please respond if you have been contacted.**

**New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) where you can now make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in your application. No walk-in foot traffic.**

**Apprentices:** Fill out your monthlies online at the website or mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab “Monthly Report Sign-In” this gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also, located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find “Make-Up Days” & “Welding Test Certifications”. You can now electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests.

**To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School,** please go the [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) to view the 2024 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Training Schedule. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. **The Wixom Training Center – Phone: (248) 960-2130 24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:** Pay via our APP or website [www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org). **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO CASH).

**FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:** 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30am to 4:30pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

**Check your HRA Balance:** [my.wexhealthcard.com](http://my.wexhealthcard.com)

**Check you online benefit information:** [ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/](http://ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/)

**BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD:** Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

**BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE:** Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

**The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Retirees’ Club:** The Retirees’ Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 8:30 am. The Retirees’ meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, April 16,

2024 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday April 2, 2024 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the Bay City Chapter will be April 18, 2024; **NEW LOCATION:** at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 1:00 pm. All are Welcome.

The Downriver Chapter Retirees breakfast will be April 19, 2024 at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

**Local 25 Retirees’ Club 2024 Scholarship. Completed applications due by 5pm April 30, 2024. Contact John Miller: text/call (734) 812-8036.**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan:** [www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/](http://www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/) Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

**FindTreatment.gov** where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. **MentalHealth.gov** provides information & programs about mental health

**Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis.** Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

**Suicide Prevention Resources on IMPACT:** <http://www.impact-net.org/safety/suicide-prevention-resources>. US Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. A volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

**The IRONWORKER Magazine changes: The magazine published by the International will now be issued every other month (6 times per year)** To subscribe to the digital edition of the Ironworker or the monthly newsletter, please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up>

**In Memory:** Polly Christensen passed away February 18, 2024 at the age of 52. She was the sister-in-law of Business Agent Mike Christensen #1207540. Benjamin Blostein passed away March 1, 2024 at the age of 34. He was a former Apprentice of Local 25 for about 3 years. Robert Finley Jr, #893135 passed away March 13, 2024 at the age of 70 and was a 50-year member. He was predeceased by his father Robert Finley #497836. Survived by his son Robert Finley III #1333019, a large family and many other friends in the Ironworking Industry. Roy Kennedy #788174 passed away Tuesday March 12, 2024 at the age of 75. He was a 56-year member of Local 25/575. **Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Mar 18, 2024 11:30 am E.S.T.).



## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

(Continued from Page 4)

collect sub for that week but only if it is at the beginning or the end of a layoff. You may NOT collect if you are not laid off. You must complete a sub application at the hall, provide a pay stub for that week and the hall will submit it to the fund office. If you are not laid off and it is due to weather the company MUST provide written documentation that it was weather related.

**MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. Ulliance is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or [www.LifeAdvisor.EAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisor.EAP.com). **Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.**

**NOTARY:** We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge. Please call to confirm availability.

**SAVE THE DATE:** • Wage Allocation – April 16 • Pre-Retirement Seminar – May 4 • Golf Outing – July 13 • Picnic – Aug. 3 Training Center News.

**Part-Time Instructor Opportunities.** The Joint Apprenticeship Committee is accepting applications for part-time instructors to teach Welding and Sheet Metal Layout classes in the evening. Ideal candidates should have strong knowledge in the subject, shop/field experience and have an interest in helping members improve their skills.

Interested Local 80 members can submit their resume to the “Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 Joint Apprenticeship Committee” by email to [info@smw80jac.org](mailto:info@smw80jac.org), as well as in-person or by mail to the Training Center at 32700 Dequindre Road, Warren, MI 48092. Call Matt at the Training Center with any questions.

**Upcoming Class:**

**The Keith Clos Memorial Copper Class** - Students enrolled in the class will receive materials and instructions to build one copper project (copper lighthouse, hurricane lantern or birdhouse). The class will meet on Wednesday evenings, 5 - 8pm for eight weeks starting on April 10. The deadline to register is Monday, April 8. The class is limited to ten people. Call the Training Center to register. (586) 979-5190

Over 40 years of quality  
Administrative Services

To each of our Members, Clients and Vendor partners impacted by COVID-19, our thoughts are with you. Rest assured knowing that BeneSys is working hard on your behalf while we navigate these difficult circumstances together.

**THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR**

- Health and Welfare Plans
- Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Defined Contribution Pension Plans
- Claims Processing
- Supplemental Unemployment Plans
- HRA’s, HSA’s, FSA’s
- Vacation Plans
- Eligibility Processing
- Trust Fund Accounting
- VEBA Administration
- Web Applications
- COBRA Administration
- HIPAA Compliance

With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Plan Participants. BeneSys has clients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.

Boston, MA	Milwaukee, WI	San Diego, CA
Bridgeton, MO	Omaha, NE	San Ramon, CA
Columbia, MD	Phoenix, AZ	Seattle, WA
Denver, CO	Pleasanton, CA	Troy, MI
Des Moines, IA	Portland, OR	Washington, DC
Hagerstown, MD	Riverport, MO	West Covina, CA
Las Vegas, NV	San Jose, CA	Youngstown, OH
Louisville, KY	Salt Lake City, UT	

www.benesys.com | (877) 923-6379 | info@benesys.com



**Plumbers & Pipe Fitters**

UA Local 333

LANSING - The March meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI 48911.

The monthly union meeting for the month of April will be held Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI.

Attention: Per Section 130 of the UA Constitution, monthly dues will go from \$28.00 per month to \$31.00 per month effective January 1, 2024 for Journeymen with no change for retirees.

SPRING SESSION WELD CLASSES  
LANSING.

Beginning - 4/01/24 - 6/06/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30 Advanced - 4/02/24 - 6/07/24 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 JACKSON Beginning - 4/01/24 - 6/06/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30 Advanced - 4/02/24 - 6/07/24 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 BATTLE CREEK Welding - 4/01/24 - 6/06/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 8:30

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBING PREP CLASS: April 29th, May 1st, May 6th and May 8th.

BACKFLOW RENEWAL CLASS: Starts April 15 (Mondays only)

ADVANCED PIPEFITTING CLASS: Starts April 1st at 5:00 pm - Class lasts six weeks.

MIG CLASS: Must have UA21 - Class will begin when 6 members have signed.

ORBITAL 18A CLASS: Must have UA41 - Class will begin when 6 members have signed.

ADVANCED PIPEFITTING CLASS - JACKSON TRAINING CENTER Chris Berry-Instructor. Class will start when 6 members have signed.

Please sign up on the Website - UA333.org. If you need assistance call the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of January 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date or you will lose your certifications. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call Diana at the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333. Even though the Training Center sends everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

NOTE: Members needing assistance with the Journeyman Plumbing Code test prep please contact Tim Hicks at the Training Center.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!! The Local 333 Battle Creek Area Adopt a Highway clean up will be Saturday April 13, 2024. Everyone will meet at 9:00 am at the corner of 11 Mile Road and E Drive North. Please call Diana at the Lansing Training Center for additional information and to sign up.

Battle Creek Retiree Breakfasts are held the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Cafe, 2587 Capital Avenue, Battle Creek, MI at 9:00 am. Please spread the word.

Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson crossing Shopping Center.

*"Each success only buys an admission ticket to a more difficult problem."*

-Henry Kissinger (1923 - 2023)

*"Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash."*

-George S. Patton (1885 - 1945)

*"To the soul, there is hardly anything more healing than friendship."*

Thomas Moore (1779 - 1852)

*"The nice thing about standards is that there are so many of them to choose from."*

-Andrew S. Tanenbaum



**Local 190**  
Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters,  
Service Technicians,  
Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR - UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

UNION HALL CLOSING AT NOON: For the Easter holiday the office will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29th. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 24 and all-day Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than June 28, please mail or return to the union hall. The UA scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution, this application must be postmarked no later than June 12<sup>th</sup> and mailed to the UA Office in Annapolis, MD.

ATTENTION MI GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS: A "Special Called Meeting" for the Michigan Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for: Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. until Noon. This meeting will be held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

ATTENTION OHIO GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS: A "Special Called Meeting" for Ohio Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for: Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. until Noon. This meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott - Columbus Worthington, 7400 Vantage Drive, Columbus, OH 43235

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS - LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK: All members who get laid off or report back to work please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work. PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN: If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at out Training Center to get information on a UA 21 Weld Certification. 734-426-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn

FUSING CLASS: Anyone interested in registering for the fusing class, please contact Business Agent Pat Duffy, (734) 368-4423, Business Agent Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth, (734) 369-1432.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION - E-Mail address: Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 or Pat Duffy 734-368-4423 to make sure we have a current e-mail address.

MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online ONLY! For detailed instructions and requirements, visit: [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc). Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms"

CREDIT CARD MACHINE: You now have the ability to pay your union dues or purchase merchandise by credit card or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. A surcharge of 3.99% is added to your card on the transaction amount. We will then mail you your dues receipt and credit charge slip.

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:

NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE: Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation benefits and much more. Download: BCBSM

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE WILL BE AT THE UNION HALL: each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Members will be able to meet with Bernadette from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473.

The Training Center will be closed March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in observance of Good Friday and May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for Memorial Day. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm.; Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!

The Training Center and UA Local 190 Apprentices will be participating in the Dexter Memorial Day Parade May 27. Any UA Local 190 Veteran members wishing to participate contact Kristyn to sign up. Please submit all certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date.

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2024 Schedule - Mondays - April 1, July 15, and Sept. 30. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2024 Schedule - Mondays - April 15, July 22, and Oct 7. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

Welding Lab: Open welding lab schedule is Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30pm. to 9pm. and Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). 2024 Schedule: The second course starts Sept 10. Courses run on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). 2024 Schedule: The second course starts May 7. The third course starts Oct 17. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5:00 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. 2024 Schedule: The second course starts Aug 20. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. 2024 Schedule: First course starts April 16. Second course starts Sept 24. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs): This is a four-day course. 2024 schedule: First course starts March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Second course to be announced later.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging

(Continued next column)



**SPRINKLER FITTERS**  
**704**  
**DETROIT**

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT - The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, April 10, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

The third and final reading of two By-Law proposals will be held at the April meeting. After the third reading there will be discussion then a vote.

As a reminder, your dues payment is due the last day of the month.

Training Classes: A fire pump testing class is being scheduled at the Local 704 Training Center, Call Jeff Gray to reserve your spot. ASSE 15000, ITM classes are scheduled for after the first of the year, this is a forty-hour class. Contact the training center for more information.

Reminder: Article V, Section 13 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order. Any project that falls into the jurisdiction of Local 704 shall be manned by not less than two members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

Article IX, Section 4 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order states: Members shall report all job starts to their local union office.

It is the members' responsibility to notify the Union Hall when they return to work.

Phone numbers to remember: NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

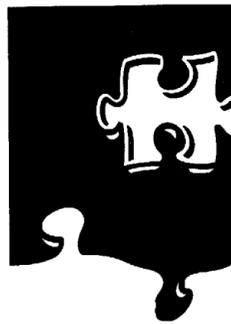
TIC International: 248-645-6550 for D.C. Fund distribution questions.

Jason May (Merrill Lynch): 248-655-4048 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

A reminder to please update any change of address or phone number changes with the Local Union Hall.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

**You Are the Missing Piece.**



**Attend Your Union Meetings!**

**Local 190, con't**

Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be Spring 2024. Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following date: Monday, March 25th, 2024, test starts at 5:00 p.m. Please register through the website: ua190.org

CONGRATULATIONS: Our member Michael Didion initiated Oct. 10, 2003 and retired Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope your retirement will be everything you dreamed that it would be.

RETIREE MEETINGS - PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, April 4, at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE BUILDING TRADESMAN PAPER: Please contact Karen Spearin at the union hall, (734) 424-0962 Ext #210, if you would like to put a special notification in the paper.



**Local 174**  
**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades**

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE - MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will be held on **Thursday, April 4, 2024**, at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Wild Game Dinner: Save the date - the Wild Game Dinner is back! Join us on 3-28-2024 at **Barclay Event Center, 2330 Barclay St., Muskegon MI 49441**. We are in need of wild game donations. By donating, you'll have the chance to enter into specific raffles based on the pounds and type of game you contribute. Remember, the more you donate, the better your chances of winning. Additionally, if you volunteer at the dinner, you'll be entered into a separate raffle as well. We encourage you to donate or volunteer for this fantastic event. Expect delicious food and great prizes. If you're interested in attending, please reach out to Jason Finch. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Organizing Update: I will be teaching COMET to our apprentices the week of March 18. COMET educates our members about why we organize! We are all organizers in some sense and the best way to organize is to speak to workers on the job sites or when you see them after work when you're out and about, organizing is 24x7! It makes perfect sense to us to be union, but they are listening to what they are told about dues, traveling, and getting laid off. Let's educate them! We are strength in numbers. Do you know who really hates unions? The non-union business owner! "We're all doing the same work, we're just not all getting the same wages and benefits!" It has never been a more perfect time to organize with the workload that is here but it is definitely a team effort! The message is clear, you deserve better wages, benefits and representation which is why you need a UNION! **Work safe, Johnny Ortiz (616) 307-8551**

Hiring Rule Reminder: As per section 5.8 of the CBA, the 50/50 hiring provision applies only to jobs working under the Local CBA. Any national agreement jobs calling for manpower are not eligible for the 50/50 provision.

Contact Information: If you need to change or verify your contact information, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNION OFFICE as soon as possible so we can keep our system up to date. **FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLX-SYS)**

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No. 174 Fringe Benefit Funds

5600 New King St, Suite 330, Troy, MI 48098  
(855) 407-5862 Toll Free

Health Insurance Contact Info:

Active and NON-Medicare Retirees

Aetna: (855) 878-4101

EAP: (888) 238-6232

Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

Medicare Retirees Retiree First: (616) 345-0788

Current Health Insurance Premiums:

Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33

Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10

Medicare Single \$123.63

Medicare Couple \$247.26

Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13

Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

Solxsys, Aetna, Labor First: If you have issues with any of our fund service providers, contact Ryan Bennett at rbennett@ua174.org. Please try to remember who you spoke with; this will help the company fix the problem.

Dues: Please keep your monthly window dues current. You can find your dues balance on the website or by calling the Union office. Remember that if you are expelled from the UA, you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

Dispatch: We have split up the dispatch responsibilities between the Business Agent and the Assistant Business Manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email of: [dispatch@ua174.org](mailto:dispatch@ua174.org) which both offices have access to. The dispatch phone extension will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

Jurisdiction: Remember to always call into the local you are traveling to. Do not rely on anyone else to call in for you. They will not get into trouble. It is the member who is working in another local who has not checked-in who will get in trouble. Please contact Ryan Bennett if you see another local's contractor or member working in our jurisdiction.

Metal Trades, Helpers, and Trainees: Please remember that if you are working as a Metal Trades, Helper, or Trainee your raises are based on the day you were first dispatched to work at that classification. If you are not sure of your dispatch date, please contact the Union office. **It is up to you to let the Union office know that you are due for a raise.**

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location

Lakeshore - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact a Union Officer for details. \*The Kent Ionia Labor Council has recently moved from the building on Benjamin and will be rotating meeting locations monthly.

Training News:

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, April 11, 2024, and Thursday, May 9, 2024.

WCP: The next weld test event will be Saturday, April 13, 2024, @ 8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 5:00p - 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

INTRO TO REFRIGERATION: Class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Class dates will be 4/9, 4/10 and 4/11 at 5:00p - 9:00p.

MED GAS RECERT: Class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 9, 2023 @ 5p - 9p. The class dates are as follows: Apr 9, 10, 15 and 17 (Exam). If your Med Gas Installer license is due to expire, please call/text to sign up by Friday, March 22, 2024.

HVAC/Low GWP Refrigerant Safety: Flammable and Mildly Flammable Refrigerants (A2L): As the HVACR industry continues to move forward and innovate, common refrigerants that were once used are now being phased out and replaced with Low GWP refrigerants(A2L). Technicians will require additional training for the safe handling and transportation of these refrigerants. Night training classes will be offered for A2L safety certifications and dates will be announced soon. The prerequisite required to attend this class is holding a current EPA608 certification.

If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates.

Please contact Chris Phillips or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Chris) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Chris (906)322-1592 / Nicole (231)206-4213.

*"Take time to deliberate, but when the time for action has arrived, stop thinking and go in."*  
-Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821)



UA Local 85

**SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting** will be a **Special Order of Business** on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7:00 PM for the purpose of allocations.

Please note: Our **new mailing address** for all correspondence has changed to 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603.

**Contact Information:**  
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org  
Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 jbadour@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org  
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@ualocal85.org

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 rjanderson@ualocal85.org

Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 ktuthill@ualocal85.org

Please check the ualocal85.org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

The **new website** is up and running. Please check out [www.ualocal85.org](http://www.ualocal85.org). Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card No. If you should have difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

**Social Media:** Like us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, @UALocal85. Facebook has our Members Only page for updates at UA Local 85 Members Group.

**JATC:** Congratulations to our newest Journeyman, Alex Fedewa!

**GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!**

**SUB Fund: Print Unemployment Payment History** located underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for submittals is Noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out on Friday. No in-person pickups allowed. If a holiday falls on a Friday, checks will be issued on Thursday and deadline will be moved up to Wednesday by noon.

**Where to submit documents:** Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: [SUB@ualocal85.org](mailto:SUB@ualocal85.org)

**SUB Application for Benefits:** Must be on file in order to receive SUB Check. Available at the Hall.

**90 Day Rule:** The weeks you are claiming must be submitted within 90 days of the first Monday following the week in which you are eligible to receive a State benefit per the Plan Documents.

**Taxes:** There are no taxes taken out of SUB Fund Checks, however they are taxable wages and you will receive a W-2 at the end of the year. If you want taxes withheld from your SUB Fund Check, please indicate the dollar amount for Federal and State on each SUB submittal.

**NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update:** Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes, (989) 799-5261.

**Beneficiary Cards:** Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261.

**Website Address:** Please visit [www.ualocal85.org](http://www.ualocal85.org).

**Insurance:** When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. **ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECK STUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

**RETIREE LUNCHEON:** The next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

**Condolences:** Our thoughts (Continued next column)



**SETTING PLUMBING IN** a first floor shower room at the Genesee County building in Flint are plumber journeyman Brandon Ehrmantraut and foreman John Cook. The UA Local 370 members are employed by Platinum Mechanical.



## Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671

**MONROE – The next regular scheduled Union Meeting is scheduled for April 4th, 2024, at 7pm.** There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on April 4th, 2024. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

**ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership.**

**Special Order of Business:**

There will be a Special Order of Business at the May 2nd Union Meeting to allocate the \$1.90 raise effective June 1st, 2024. This allocation will be the 3rd increase in the 5-year contract. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

**Local 671 App:** To keep up on the latest information, make sure you download Local 671 App. For question or issues getting logged on contact Vinnie at the Union hall.

All upcoming courses and certifications have now also been added to the App under the Training tab. Please contact Justin to register for any training opportunities.

**Health & Welfare:** If you need any additional insurance cards or did not receive your new cards, please contact the union hall, and we will get them mailed out to you.

To all our Retirees on United Health Care, if you need an eye exam there is one free exam per year through United Health Care. If you have any questions, you can contact Labor First at 734-234-6496 or toll free at 833-237-3380.

**Scholarship Opportunities: The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 671 Scholarship Fund** will be awarding scholarships again this year. If selected, one scholarship will be awarded to a qualified dependent, grandchild, or spouse of a Local 671 Member in good standing. The applicants must be a 2024 graduating senior or currently enrolled as a full-time student at a college or a qualified post-secondary school.

**Qualification Requirements:**

- Applicant must be the dependent, grandchild or spouse of a member in good standing of UA Local Union 671
- Have at least a 3.0 (B) grade point average
- Write an essay of 500 words or less on one of the following two topics:

‘How Monroe Local 671 has benefited my Family’ or ‘What Labor Union Means to Me’

• We are very proud of our previous winners, but please understand that we only award (1) scholarship per applicant.

**The application deadline is May 3rd, 2024.**

**The Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council (CLC)** will be

## Local 85, con't

and prayers go out to the family of Clayton Bullard who passed away on Feb. 1, 2024.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of William Puckett who passed away on February 15, 2024.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Michael Kurtenbach who passed away on February 26, 2024.

**Fraternally,  
Justin M. Pomerville  
Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary**

awarding two \$1000 scholarships through the Bonnie Finzel-Doster Memorial Scholarship Program again this year. One each will be awarded to a qualified 2024 graduating senior at a Monroe or Lenawee County high school.

**Qualifications Requirements:**

Be a 2024 graduating senior at a Monroe or Lenawee County high school

Be the son or daughter of a member in good standing of a local union currently affiliated with the CLC

Have at least a 3.0 (B) grade point average

Write an essay of 500 words or less on one of the following two topics:

‘How the Union has Benefited my Family’ or ‘What Labor Union Means to Me’

The deadline for the application is April 5th, 2024.

**Retiree Luncheon:** We would like to remind everyone that our retiree luncheons are held on the last Thursday of every month, except for August (due to the picnic) and November and December due to their proximity to the Holidays. These luncheons are a great time to see old friends, and maybe even meet some new ones. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Open Weld Shop Nights:** The open weld shop nights are now **Wednesday and Thursday nights** from 6pm-10pm now that school is back in session. **There will be no open welding on Union Meeting or UA weld test nights.** A booth will need to be reserved by noon on the Monday prior to the practice night. If we have (3) or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.

Per the UA Weld Quality System Manual, any member who does not currently hold a UA Welding certification must prove that they are ready to take a UA weld test prior to the UA Weld test date.

Contact Justin if you want to sign up for the next **UA Weld Test** which will be held on March 28.

**Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class:** We will be holding classes to prepare Members who will be taking their Michigan Journeyman Plumbing Test. If you have any questions or are curious about your Plumbing hours with the State, contact Justin for details.

**Medical Gas Installer Class:** We have spots available for the upcoming 40-hour NFPA 99 Medical Gas Installer license training. The class will run from March 20th to June 5th on Wednesday nights. Please contact Justin if you are interested in attending.

**In Closing:** As all of you probably know, this year is the Presidential election. I know you all have probably heard this before, but I truly believe that this year more than ever is one of the most important elections in history. I believe our liberties and independence are at stake. Please make sure you are registered to vote. Also, make sure to encourage our young people to get out and vote.

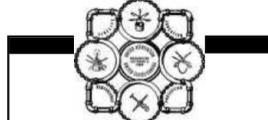
Mike Jewell: email: [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)  
Vinnie Fenech: email: [vinnie@ualocal671.com](mailto:vinnie@ualocal671.com)

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: [carly@ualocal671.com](mailto:carly@ualocal671.com)

Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

*“The easiest thing in the world to be is you. The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be. Don't let them put you in that position.”*

–Leo Buscaglia (1925 - 1998)



## Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357

**KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 9** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

**GROWLERS BASEBALL NIGHT:** Mark your calendars for Local 357's Union Outing - Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball Game on **Saturday, June 8.** More information will be coming in a few months... so, just set this date aside for now.

**UNION DUES REMINDERS:** Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com). Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site.... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

**RETIREE MEETINGS (NEW PLACE & TIME):** Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew (Note – New Location)** at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. Phone no. for the location: (269) 337-9800.

**WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES:** Check out the website at [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com) and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ [www.facebook.com/UALocal357/](https://www.facebook.com/UALocal357/). You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the **LARGE REGISTER** button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when the hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

**CHANGE OF STATUS:** If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date. **There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents. (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).**

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Randall Cade on his recent marriage.

**CONDOLENCES:** Condolences to the family of John Crawford on the recent passing of his wife.



## Local 370

Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters  
and HVAC Service

UA Local 370

**FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 9, 2024, at 7:00.**

**Scholarship Applications** for the 2024-2025 school year are now available on our website at [ualocal370.org](http://ualocal370.org). The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local 370. Complete lists of qualifications and applications are also available at Local 370 hall. Applications are due by the end of May.

**Upcoming Night Class Schedule:**

**First Aid & CPR:** September 18th @ 430

**HVACR STAR Mastery Prep:** Sign up and we will schedule classes as needed.

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 ext 15 or at [training@ualocal370.org](mailto:training@ualocal370.org)

Per our **By-Laws Article XV**, *The Building Tradesman* is hereby adopted and subscribed to as our Labor paper for all members of local 370. Said paper to be used for all official notification of membership.

**Committee and Board meetings are as follows:**

Examining Board – Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday April 9, 2024 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday April 9, 2024 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday April 9, 2024, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday April 9, 2024 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday April 9, 2024 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

**ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing:** MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The Hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

Local 370 office hours 7:30am – 4:30pm.

Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am – 11:30 am and 1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.

**Attendance award** drawing for membership meeting information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The monthly award is \$150.

**Attention All Active Members in Good Standing** The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 who takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work. This includes Riggering, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense. Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

**Mobile App.** Our mobile app is now available for download on you cell phone. Go to the app store and search **UA Local 370**. Download the app and sign in. You can read the latest Building Trades article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues. This is a work in progress, and we will add more content to the site as we move forward.

**Our web site is up and running.** Check it out at [ualocal370.org](http://ualocal370.org)

We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window dues. If you want to take advantage of this service there will be a \$1.00 per month charge added to the monthly window dues fee and a 3% fee for all other transactions.

Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to pay for 3 months shall stand suspended, unable to vote for a period of 1 year or run for office for a period of 2 years and subject to a \$50 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our bylaws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test contact business agent, Zack Desrochers for application and testing dates.

Local 370 ball caps and winter fleece caps are available at the union offices. Ball caps \$10 and fleece caps \$5. Pocket Tee shirts are available for \$10 each. Hooded sweat shirts and long sleeve pocket tee shirts are available. The sweat shirts are \$30 and the long sleeve tee shirts are \$15. Golf polo and golf wind shirts are available for \$25.

If you shop on the internet, **SHOP UNION MADE**, log on to [www.shopunionmade.com](http://www.shopunionmade.com).

T.I.C. fringe administrators' toll free number is 1-888-797-5862.

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.



Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. They maintains offices in Sterling Heights, Livonia, Southgate and Novi. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

- ONLY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CASES
- WE WILL PERSONALLY REPRESENT YOU
- OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

[www.ssdfighter.com](http://www.ssdfighter.com)



**Local 636**  
Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,  
Refrigeration &  
Air Conditioning Service

**UA Local 636**

DETROIT – Our next regular meetings are scheduled for **Tuesday March 19, 2024 and Tuesday April 16, 2024** at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (at the Lodge) Southfield, MI 48075.

A special thank you to Tom McCabe and Cliff Patton who designed our new logo and stickers.

**Attention Softball Players;** Anyone interested in playing Softball please contact Jeff Selph at 269-598-6942.

**Attention Hockey Players:** UA Local 67 Hamilton, ON Hockey Tournament that 636 participates in is taking place 5/3/24 – 5/5/24. Per past years, 636 sends an under 35 and an over 35 team. This year, there will be 8 pre-tournament conditioning skates on Tuesday's 3/12/2024 – 4/30/2024 from 4-5 pm at Redford Ice Arena. If you are current or new and interested in playing this year, please reach out to Ryan Stewart (248) 798-7420.

**Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.** For those still owing on PLDF we are only able to take checks or money orders for payment.

**REMINDER:** Please open all correspondence with the Local and BeneSys and Insurance Providers you receive in the mail.

**Save the Date:** Saturday, August 17, 2024 Local 636 will have their annual picnic at the SARA CLUB in Brighton, 11am – 4pm.

**2024 Golf Outing.** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Local 636 Scholarship Golf Outing Saturday June 15, 2024 at Mystic Creek Golf Course Milford, MI. To join in the fun this year please contact Jake Regits 248-939-6636 or Dan Gurley 248-939-5636 for Teams and Sponsorship availability. Limited to 192 Golfers, first come first serve. All proceeds benefit the Detroit Pipefitters Benevolent Fund!

**CALLING ALL RETIREES!** The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall. **The next meetings will be held March 21, 2024 and April 18, 2024.**

**New 988 crisis helpline.** The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline, new resources are now available. When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources.

**Our deepest condolences** go out to the members, families and friends of the following, who have passed from our ranks: Diane Schramm March 6, 2024 wife of Lifetime Member Gilbert Schramm; Aaron Collins Mar. 9, 2024 son of Lifetime Member Joseph Collins; Lifetime Member Gary Lewis March 5, 2024; 10-year member Ty Alan Wright Dec. 30, 2023, Lifetime Member Morris "Ric" Parr Dec. 20, 2023; Lifetime Member Robert Blackburn Jan. 30. Our condolences to the family of Mary Harris wife of the late member James Harris, Lifetime member Bernard Cousino whose wife June Ellen of 55 years passed away Feb. 9, 2024. Juanita Davenport wife of the late Lifetime member Harold Davenport passed away Feb. 10, 2024. May they Rest in Peace.

**Get Well Wishes to;** Charles Baker, Barbara Brown, Adam Cloutier, Patrick Cullen, Theresa Danko, Brian Finley, David Fox, Kevin Harper, Andrew Hernandez, Alan Hiller, Jamie Klimowicz, Frank Kozlowski, Mark Surowiec, Kirt Williamson, Tom Wills, David Yuhn, David Jarzab, Brian Mierendorf, Paul Franjesh.

Following is a list of our recent Retirees who have passed their tools and knowledge to the next generation. We thank them for their time in the field advancing our trade and the Brother/Sisterhood they continue to show in our local. **Congratulations on your retirement!** **December:** Mark Mears, Charles Chesser. **January:** Daniel Sarna, David Selph **March:** Amanda Weidenbach.

**Dues - First Quarter Dues are due now or you may incur a suspension with a \$50 reinstatement fee.** Your dues receipts will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. Local 636 has set up an auto-pay system for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

**S.U.B.-NEW- Direct Deposit is NOW AVAILABLE** for SUBPAY.

Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request.

The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday.

After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

**Direct Deposit is now available,** members choosing direct deposit will have the payments deposited into their accounts on Fridays. That is the reason for processing being done on Wednesdays.

**Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement** forms for SUBPAY were mailed by BeneSys and can be found on our website or you can call the Local for one.

**BeneSys** has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when calling BeneSys, please call #248-641-4936 or #888-646-8920.

**Financial Advisor Jason May** with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a **new contact number 248-540-2091** or email him at jason.may@ml.com

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan.** For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The NEW NUMBER for the VRU is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is 7526. You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution **corrected** website is www.yourplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmdyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

**Considering Retirement?** Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 248-641-4936 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60-90-day notice that is necessary** to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

**Are you "Work Ready"?** Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at **mustsafe.org** and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association.

**WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE CERTIFICATION PAYMENTS.**



**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111**

**UA Local 111**

UPPER PENINSULA – The next Union Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> in Marquette at 7:30.**

**Congratulations** to Local 111 member Frank Wertz on winning Upper Peninsula Construction Council Apprentice of the Year, and to the other finalists: Ean Bevins, also of Local 111, and Seth Coburn of Millwrights Local 1510.

**Local 111 will be accepting applications for the Plumber/Pipefitter Apprenticeship March 4-29th at all UP Michigan Works! locations. If you know anyone interested, please let them know.**

**Welding Classes:** Tuesday Evening weld classes are ongoing at the Escanaba Training Center, classes run from 5 pm-9 pm on a week-to-week basis. We are also starting Saturday weld classes, 8 am-4:30 pm, once a month. Contact Training Coordinator John Antonciew to be added to the notification list. Your position in the class is not confirmed until you receive a reply.

**Upcoming Saturday Weld Sessions: March 23 and April 27. Upcoming Weld Tests: May 4.**

Anyone interested in 1-day shutdowns, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher, Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba office.

**MRA CARD: Please check your MRA Account for transactions that are in need of substantiation or ineligible.** You can access this info here: <https://www.zenith-american.com/>

The MRA link will take you directly to your MRA info and you will be able to see the ineligible transactions.

Please make sure what you are submitting is either an **Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** or an **Itemized billing with paid receipt**, that includes: Provider Name • Patient Name • Date of Service • Description of Service • Total Patient Responsibility

Please if you are having trouble with something you have submitted you can call the Zenith American Solutions helpline at 1-866-823-4730 extension 1 (MRA) Or call the hall and Rose will be able to try and assist you-906-226-6511 ext. 4

**New 988 Crisis Helpline:** The UA & the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on how we approach mental health and suicide prevention. New resources are now available with the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline. Call or text 988 to be connected to trained counselors who will listen & provide support and linked to resources.

**Reminder:** Check your records and contact the hall with *any changes* to the following: **E-Mail, home address, phone number, a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death.** Please call April or Rose to have your information updated.

**Reminder:** It is your responsibility to call the hall as soon as you get laid off, the day you call in is the date that you are placed on the **Out of Work List**, if you do not call in you will not be referred to work.

Reminder to all apprentices, you must attend 4 union meetings per year.

**Reminder to Welders/Welding Forms:** The UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the hall. Certifications expire every **6 months** and it is **YOUR** responsibility to get your welding forms turned in on time.

Please update all non-UA certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA etc.) by sending a copy of your certification to the Union Hall

**Check your dues records!** You are assessed a \$50 reinstatement once you become 3 months behind. You are automatically expelled once you are over 6 months behind.

**Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site:** When taking the on-line safety training, go to our



**Plumbers Local 98**



**UA Local 98**

DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98. The officers and staff at Local 98 hope you and your family are well.

Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our web site. Go to [UALOCAL98.COM](http://UALOCAL98.COM) Contacts for Agent Mark Wisniewski Western Wayne County 248-762-9221, [mwisniewski@ualocal98.org](mailto:mwisniewski@ualocal98.org)

**Meetings & Union Hall.** The next Union meeting is a special called meeting for purpose of wage allocation April 11th, we will then revert back to a regular called meeting at 7:00pm at the Union Hall.

The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

**Retiree Meetings.** The next Retiree Meeting is Wednesday, April 10 from 12pm-2pm at Local 98!

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship. Learn more at Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

It's that time of year to renew your Plumbing License or Apprentice License with the State. Don't be that person who lets it go. You worked way too hard to stand out from the other crafts to let it slip.

**Training Instructor:** We are taking applications for a training instructor at the Local 98 training center. Turn in your application to Ryan Lyle at the front desk at the training center between 7 am to 3:30 pm or email him at [ryl@ualocal98.org](mailto:ryl@ualocal98.org) No later than March 22nd.

**Attention Hockey players:** If interested in playing hockey please contact Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702.

**Attention Baseball players:** if interested in playing baseball please contact Jon DeRoo at 248-762-9238.

Macomb County Adopt-A-Highway: Will be April 20, 2024 at 8 am. Meet at the Roseville Bob Evans on 13 and Gratiot. Please call Business Agent Gary Glaser (313) 580-0148 to RSVP.

**Dues.** Happy to say there are no expeller members at this time.

**SUB Apps/Out of Work List.** SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App whether you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702.

**Benefits.** \*We now have a dedicated BeneSys employee at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. Her name is Brooke, the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Brooke is receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for us to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2 for Brooke. If Brooke is on the other line, please leave her a message and she will get back to you promptly.

**New Benefit.** We have a new benefit for the working members of Local 98 and their families. We are proud to announce we have secured a 2-year agreement with Delta Dental starting March 1, 2024. There is zero cost to the fund at this time. Please watch the insurance mailings for the annual benefit information for 2024. We still will offer the DENCAP (Golden) Dental plan for the retired members who wish to purchase this plan.

**Worker Assistance Program.** Work Life Strategies, LLC. are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcoholism, etc.

**Local 111 cont'd**

web site [ua111.com](http://ua111.com) and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

**MSHA Training:** To register for an MSHA class please go to **Upconstruction.org** and go to the **MSHA calendar** to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.

hol, drug addiction, bankruptcy depression, marital issues and family counseling. All this is confidential and led by or health professional C.J. Harrison, you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887. If you cannot go to her office she can do phone conferences, don't wait ask for help when you feel issues are affecting your life.

Please select option #4 for Financial Secretary Jon DeRoo if you are looking to retire. Please set a meeting up with him. We recommend doing this at least 6 months before retirement.

**In Memoriam:** Our sympathies to family and friends of Brother Michael Kalso initiated 07/25/1996 a 27-year member Brother Thomas Tostige initiated 08/26/1965 a 58-year member, Brother Gilbert Wilkinson initiated 01/12/1978 a 46-year member.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers & Apprentices.

This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working Non-Union or is a past member that may be interested, have them call Organizer Rob Moses at 248-763-2187. Or get online at The Training Center for more information on Apprenticeships.

**In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98**

**TRAINING CENTER NEWS.** Phone # 248-585-1435.

Check out The Training Center's website [www.Plumbers98tc.org](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 26, 2024. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions. The State of Michigan Plumbing Division will be instituting the 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code beginning in March of 2024. Books are available for preorder through the ICC. The Training Center will have a limited number available for sale.

**CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2024.** All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class. The 2024 upgrade classes are listed below. Please keep an eye out for the class you need or find interesting!

**Monthly Code Class** – Next class is PENDING at 4:30 pm. This is not a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. Please call Paul Baker at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

There will be a code class that reviews the entire Michigan Plumbing Code and includes practice for the practical portion of the Journey exam in the near future. Please call the Training Center if you are interested in attending the class.

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for May 7, we have 2 available evenings to come in and practice for it. The 2 dates are Wednesday, April 24 and Wednesday, May 1. Call the Training Center if you are

interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

**CLASS LIST 2024. ASSE Backflow Tester Re-Certification:** Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly. \$100

**8 hour recert class** July 23 & 24 Deadline is June 21

**8 hour recert class** Oct.22 & 23 Deadline is Sept. 20

**ASSE Backflow Tester** (Full 40 hour):

**Fall:** Sept. 9 – Nov. 18 Deadline is Aug. 23-\$200

**ASSE Repairer: \*\*\*** Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification **Fall:** September 10 - October 15, Deadline is August 23 -\$100

**ICRA and Water Quality: \*\*\*** Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30

**Fall:** September 11 to November 20, Deadline is August 23 -\$200

**CAD/BIM**

**Fall:** September 9 – November 18 Deadline is August 23-\$100

**Medical Gas Installer** (Full 40 hour):

**Fall:** September 11 to November 20, Deadline is August 23 -\$200

**Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber**

**Fall:** September 11 to November 20, Deadline is August 23 -\$100

**Hydronic Heating and Cooling**

**Fall:** September 11 to November 20, Deadline is August 23 -\$100

**OPEN WELDING** – Open welding is available on Wednesday evenings. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

**\*\*2023 brazing and welding sessions** will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next Welding and Brazing sessions will be April 6th, 2024. **\*\*You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.** Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

**2023 Course Hour reimbursement forms are available at the Training Center.** You must have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from January 1 - December 31, 2023 to be eligible for the \$100.00 reimbursement.

**OSHA Training - OSHA 10,** available as an online class for \$59 at [www.careersafeonline.com](http://www.careersafeonline.com) This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org). **\*\*Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.**

It is each member's individual responsibility to keep all their Certifications current.

If the person you are trying to reach at the Training Center is unavailable, please leave a message to ensure we can return your call. We attempt to return all messages by the end of the business day.

*"Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example."*

–Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)

*"You've got to be original, because if you're like someone else, what do they need you for?"*

–Bernadette Peters (1948-)

*"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."*

–Sir Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626)

*"Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith."*

–Saint Francis of Assisi (1181 - 1226)

*"Many people think that if they were only in some other place, or had some other job, they would be happy. Well, that is doubtful. So get as much happiness out of what you are doing as you can and don't put off being happy until some future date."*

–Dale Carnegie (1888-1955)

*"Play by the rules, but be ferocious."*

–Phil Knight (1938-)

*"Nothing is so admirable in politics as a short memory."*

–John Kenneth Galbraith (1908 - 2006)

*"All great truths begin as blasphemies."*

–George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)



**BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON**  
Real Estate Training Inc.  
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120  
Troy, MI 48068  
[www.middletontraining.com](http://www.middletontraining.com)  
**248-885-8311**



**MIXING GROUT** to fill a basement wall at the Genesee County Building project in Flint are Laborers Local 1075 members Sunny Jenkins and Jarrod Paseka. They're employed by B & G Masonry Service.



**Local 149**  
Roofers &  
Waterproofers

**Roofers Local 149**

**DETROIT – Attention.** This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

**General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mid-Michigan.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Apr. 9, 2024 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420. At the April 9, 2024, meeting, we will be **taking proposals on administering the \$3.00 raise.**

**Condolences.** It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brother.

Brother Norman Pianfetti, he was 83 years old and a 49-year member. Brother Pianfetti passed on 2/21/2024.

Rest in Peace Brother Norman Pianfetti.

**Notice of Election – Detroit Negotiating Committee.** The election will take place at the Detroit Union Hall, 1640 Porter St, Detroit, MI 48216, on April 2, 2024, from 2pm thru 7pm. You must be a member in good standing to cast a ballot. Members running for the Negotiating Committee are as follows.

Joe Gilliam, Don Watkins III, Gary (Shade Tree) Johnson, Raphael Hamilton, Jonathan Crosby, Tom Jaranowski, Robert Colston, Joe Zsembery

**Detroit Vacation Checks (quarterly).** The Detroit Union Hall will open at 5:00am, Friday, April 19, 2024 to distribute vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8:00 until Noon, Saturday, April 20, 2024 for anyone that cannot make it down Friday. Those who have their vacation pay Direct Deposited; will have their money deposited in their bank on **April 12, 2024.**

Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you what the check mailed.

**Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit**  
Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas.

To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall.

**Detroit Training Center Information**

- The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:
- Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1- Monday, January 22, 2024
  - Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2- Tuesday, January 23, 2024
  - BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1- Wednesday January 24, 2024
  - BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2- Thursday, January 25, 2024
  - Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health- Thursday, January 25, 2024

All classes begin at 6:30pm Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

**CLEARANCE CARDS.** Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

**Outdoor Life.** If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

**MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420. At the April 9, 2024, meeting, we will be taking proposals on administering the \$3.00 raise.

**Notice.** When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Mid-Michigan Area (Continued next column)



**Local 36**  
Elevator  
Constructors

**Elevator Constructors Local 36**

**DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED,** our next regular **MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE March 25, 2024, AT 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI.** Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

**Attention All Members,** this paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. This is how we get information out to all our members, as repetitive as it might be there is new information in each article, please read it carefully and call the hall or attend a union meeting if you have any questions.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Golf Outing, please contact **Justin Smith @ (248)709-0341.** Golf outings like picnics take a lot of time and effort to plan and execute, I would like to make this year one of our best outings. We plan on partnering with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention this year and many years to come to raise money for this cause. This year's outing will be our first annual Kyle Owsley Golf Outing to raise money for AFSF. If you are a golfer or just want to help volunteer in any way, contact Justin Smith.

Michigan workplaces are NO LONGER governed by the Right-to-Work law, as the repeal took effect Tuesday, February 13, 2024, and prevailing wage was also restored on this date.

You should have received your End of Year report and W-2 sheet by now. If you haven't received this, contact the hall. A copy of your W-2 is due by March 31, 2024, but you can send them in or bring them in before that deadline.

We are looking at having a supplemental insurance company (Aflac) come into the April membership meeting to let members sign up for a policy if they choose, they need 25 members to sign up to get a group pricing. We are also looking to have a financial advisor come to the April meeting, more information will be given in future articles.

We are going to be giving pins for service at the April Meeting, so if you are eligible for 15 years or more of service pin, please attend this meeting. It will be held at the Electricians Hall; more information will be in this paper as it gets closer.

I would like to encourage everyone to use Bill Pay through your bank to pay dues, it is a free service and can be set up for weekly, monthly, or quarterly. We have a few of our members that have already started this, and it seems to be working well. Please call the hall or contact your bank about how this works.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is [vap@iuec.org](mailto:vap@iuec.org) or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Organizer @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Coordinator @ 410-312-1474.

**If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website.**

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the fund office and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work.

**Local 149 cont'd**

members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 3/18/2024, 2:00p.m.

**- In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149**

If you are off for a work-related injury, there is a separate form you must fill out. Call the hall with any questions.

If you think there are contract violations or safety violations on the job you are on, call the hall, we will come out to the jobs and get these issues corrected.

If you would like to sign up for Safety alerts, text **(855) 957-1801** and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.

Once again, individuals with a Mechanic Exam Pass Date on or after Jul 9, 2022, must take a Mechanic Required (MR) Continuing Education course in 2024 to receive their scheduled pay raises January 1, 2025.

**I highly recommend you take the course and keep up on it every year! We had 3000 members take the CE in 2023, 1100 required and 1900 grandfathered. We would like to see all our grandfathered Mechanics take this course in 2024, you will be paid 8 hours at mechanic's rate. If you aren't registered or are having problems getting registered, call the hall and we will help you.**

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** call those jobs into the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A.

**Attention All Mechanics,** when filling out Probationary Apprentices OJTs, give them an honest evaluation, if you are having issues with them, state it on the OJTs. They will be evaluated at the JAC meeting, and if necessary, bring them in to try and correct any issues.

**Attention All Apprentices,** if you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJTs till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out **COMPLETELY** by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

If you are eligible to sit for your State of Michigan or City of Detroit class A journeyman's license, study the code books and schedule a time to sit for them. If you pass your mechanic's exam and don't have your licenses you are not eligible to work in the State or City as a Mechanic without them. Getting your licenses and any certificates/training only makes you more valuable as an employee. If you need help with any part of the process, call the hall.

**Attention All Temporary Mechanics,** your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month at the Union meeting. If you can't make the Union meeting (for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the **NEXT MORNING.** If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, your personal tools **MUST** be taken off the job and notify the hall.

**Attention All Retirees,** if you requested an Honorary Card and have not received it, please contact the Hall.

**If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can get you on the email list.**

We would like to extend well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!

*"I'm convinced that about half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the non-successful ones is pure perseverance."*

–Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011)



**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47**

**Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47**

**LANSING – The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** It will be held at New J.A.T.C. Training Center, located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. Please make note of the new Location for the Union Meeting.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

Please notify the Local Union Office with any phone and home address changes. We need the most current member information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International.

Local 47 would like to send our condolences to the family and friends of Shane Falkowski, he passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Per the Rules and Procedures:

Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

**Pension and Health Welfare:** Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671  
**Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds,** 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275  
Toll Free Number: (800) 323-8079

Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502

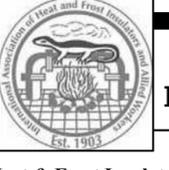
Fax Number: (517) 321-7508

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively

Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare (Continued next column)



**Local 25**  
Heat and Frost Insulators

**Heat & Frost Insulators 25**

**SOUTHFIELD – SUB FUND BENEFIT:** At the latest SUB Fund Meeting, the trustees voted to increase the SUB Fund Benefit amount effective, January 22, 2024.

The new weekly rate for members drawing a medical disability check from the Fund Office will be \$350.00 per week. A member drawing an unemployment benefit from the State of Michigan will now receive \$300.00 per week.

**PER CAPITA:** Please be reminded, any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14.00 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a **monthly** basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local's jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00.

Please forward your payments **monthly** to Local 25, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

**MUST SAFETY MODULES:** It is important to keep your M.U.S.T. Safety Modules up to date. If you have Modules expiring and needing to be completed, give the Union Office a call to have the testing authorization turned on.

**EMPLOYMENT CHANGES:** All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

**LAY OFF/HIRE:** Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within 48 hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

**S.U.B. FUND:** Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

**SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION:** Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within thirty (30) days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the thirty (30) days will be denied per the Plan Document.

**NOTICE TO ALL:** When you move into the Medicare Advantage Program, your deductible balance for the year, is supposed to carry over. Whatever you have paid toward your annual deductible, prior to changing over to Medicare Advantage Program, should follow you. As with any system, there can be flaws. Please keep an eye out for any charges, related to your deductible balance not being carried over, when you move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office.

**BENESYS:** When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to **get the name of the person providing you information.** Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

**SICK AND INJURED:** Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.

**Breakthrough, maybe, for Starbucks' approach to union organizers**

**SEATTLE (PAI) – Starbucks,** the monster coffee chain that has steadfastly refused to bargain with its unionizing workers unless it's behind closed doors and shop by shop, has agreed to bargain about bargaining with all of them as a group, in so many words.

The agreement was announced jointly by the firm and Starbucks Workers United – the Service Employees affiliate whose workers are helping the from-the-ground-up Starbucks workers organizing.

After two years and no talks between the workers at the 400 Starbucks stores that voted to go union, plus SWU, on one side and Howard Schultz and the other bosses at Starbucks on the other, SWU and the workers hailed the agreement to talk.

If the firm negotiates, it'll have to discuss demands of some 9,000 workers at 400 Starbucks stores nationwide who voted to go union. That's a big "if." Store #400, in Miami, voted on March 7 to unionize. Agreeing to bargain about bargaining could be viewed as yet another Starbucks stall.

The firm refused to bargain with them as a group and refused to bargain with them because SWU and the worker reps invited other workers to Zoom in. Starbucks didn't want the others to see its intransigence. In the only two sessions under that format, Starbucks, led by its union-busting lawyers, walked out after five minutes.

"A giant step forward made possible by thousands and thousands of us joining together and speaking out... THIS IS HUGE," SWU began its tweets announcing the agreement to bargain about bargaining. As a result of our courage and persistence over the last 2 years, SBWU & Starbucks are in talks to build a foundational framework toward contract bargaining and organizing. Leaflets about this giant step forward are now being posted in union-certified stores across the country!"

**Local 47 cont'd**

Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: [www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org](http://www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org)

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

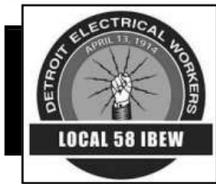
JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call

the Union Office.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report for NO later than ten (10) days from the end of the current work week."

**Good and Welfare:** We hope everyone stay in good health!



# IBEW LOCAL 58

**IBEW 58**  
**DETROIT – The next General Membership Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting will start at 6:30 pm.

**Electrical Industry Training Center** is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroit-etc.org/continuing-education/>. We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will order books for those of you who've signed up. Members on the Storm Book must secure their training through the Continuing Education Program offered by the school. If you need assistance in registering for a class, please call the Training Center at 586-751-6600.

**The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

**IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers** are available for purchase, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line. \$100 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

**Local 58 Dues Department** – Stay current on your dues! Look at your Dues Receipt – if your paid through date shows 12-31-2023 or earlier, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee (4 months or more behind). It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement or death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone no. Dues statements have gone out and we are getting many returned. Please update your information. Thank you!

**Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF):** The next meeting will be April 2 at 5:30pm. Our next event will be the Walleye Tournament on Saturday May 4. This is open to all members and family as well as the other trades. Please look for more information soon.

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30pm. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information to volunteer or participate.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

**EWMC of Southeastern MI** – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. We have a lot of events and projects on the horizon this year and we need all hands-on deck. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

**The RENEW Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

**The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, April 8 at 5:30 PM. **The Veterans Committee** - will now be meet-

ing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 pm.

**The Political Action Committee (PAC)**- If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting you can reach out to our registrars at [registrar@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:registrar@ibewlocal58.org). Political Action Committee Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the hall at 5:30 PM.

**Local 58's Women's Committee**- Our next meeting will take place on March 28, 5:30pm at the Hall and also on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087). Email at [58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org)

**Local 58 Motorcycle Group:** Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Vice President Anthony Anderanin @ 313-999-3829, [aanderanin@gmail.com](mailto:aanderanin@gmail.com) or Grace Trudell @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for events and rides.

**IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association:** Our next luncheon will be at the Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Rd., Warren, on Wednesday March 27. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at 12:30. Send your reservations with your checks (payable to the Retirees Association) in the amount of \$25 per person, to IBEW #58, Attn Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI 48232-0756, questions call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885. Our next board meeting will be Wednesday, April 10 in the Bill Rushford Room in the lower level of the union hall at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

**The Annual Pin Party Luncheon** is set for Saturday, April 27 at the union hall. Members who are receiving pins this year will receive invitations that went out on Monday, March 11 (please rsvp in a timely manner), and are our guests at this celebration.

Honorees are welcome to bring guests, \$25 per person. FYI, this celebration takes the place of the April Luncheon, and anyone who would like to join us, certainly can, you don't need to be an honoree or their guest, just come have lunch (\$25 per person) and enjoy visiting with folks who are being feted for their years of IBEW Membership. Be sure to put the Pin Party on your calendars. Checks and reservations, send to the aforementioned address at the local union hall. More pin party details will follow in our April newsletter. 2024 DUES; If you haven't paid yours yet, send your checks for \$8 per person, to the address above.

**Local 58 Retiree's Association fall bus trip:** The Retirees Association Bus trip is Sept. 12-17. Traveling to Boston, Salem and Cape Ann. Total cost of the trip is \$845 per person, based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$75 per person, is due when you sign up for the trip. Made payable to the Retirees Association. Balance will be due July 5. Insurance provided by TRAVEL CONFIDENT INSURANCE is recommended, which is a separate payment made payable to the insurance company which is \$72 per person to join the trip, send your \$75 checks, per person, To Dave Riley, 22700 Grove St., St. Clair Shores 48080-1878. Questions: call Dave at 586 206-8075. **Don't wait, send your deposit to hold your spot.**

**Local 58 Senior 55+ Softball Team 2024** is getting underway. The games start in May, with practices running through April. Anyone interested in playing or maybe coaching a base or being a scorekeeper, please come on out!

We are also going to field a team for the IBEW Midwest tournament this year. It is being held August 9-11 at the Canton softball complex in Canton MI. Those who cannot join the league games but would like to participate in the tournament are welcome. We need a full roster and you do not have to be 55+ for the tournament. We will be getting together for practice once a month until the tournament.

For more information call Dave Baldino, 586-747-2446; Gerry Cassani, 586-804-8026; or Jim

(Continued next column)



**A CASE OF THE BENDS** is given a section of conduit by electrician Mitch O'Leary of IBEW Local 948. Employed by Walker Electric, he's working on the first floor of what will be the Genesee County Building in Flint.



# IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

**IBEW Local 131**

**KALAMAZOO** – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on April 1, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew meeting** will be held on April 1, at 5 p.m.

The next **Executive Board meeting** will be held on April 15, at 5 p.m.

**Brotherhood night** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at CJ's from 3:30 to 5:30PM.

The **Softball Team** is forming now. Please contact Trevor Pryson at 269-615-7409 for more information. Yes, you can join the team. Yes, it would help if you know how to play.

The **Work Outlook** continues to be steady. We have open calls for Moore, Champion Services, and Hi-Tech have crews working on the Pfizer, Zoetis and Palisades. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome have several floors up, with more windows being installed all the time. Yes, there are a few warm spots. Palisades is waiting for final approval. They are hiring, the work will be done under the local agreement.

**Bounty Program** is available. When a member recruits a new journeyman level member who works 500-hours, and has completed the Multi-District Journeyman Wireman Examination, the recruiting member

## IBEW 58, con't

Miles, 586-933-3551.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings** take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

**Electrical Workers Credit Union** – Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates!! New auto as low as 5.75%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>. Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed.

**State of Michigan Escheat Law:** The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

**Be sure to keep the Union Hall** updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and email.

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: David Mott, Ricky Rodriguez, Paul Saloka, Dennis Smarsh Jr., John Stocks, and Kevin Wilson.

**Members that have Passed Away:** Bruce Bullard Jr., pension member, 44-year IBEW membership; Thomas "Timber" Donahue Jr., pension member, 56-year IBEW membership, former Executive Board Member for IBEW Local 58; Bruce Kidd, pension member, 67-year IBEW membership; Ronald Linzner, pension member, 24-year IBEW membership and Gary A. Smith, pension member, 55-year IBEW membership. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

receives a \$500 bounty. When the same member works a total of 2000-hours, and attends the local's new member orientation class, the recruiting member will receive an additional \$500 bounty. When a member recruits a new CE level member who works 500-hours, and has completed the Multi-District Journeyman Wireman Examination, the recruiting member receives a \$500 bounty. When the same new member works a total of 2000 hours, and attends the local's new member orientation class, the recruiting member will receive member an additional \$500 bounty.

**Negotiations** have started for the next contract. We will find out in April if the healthcare cost will be going up. The contractors offered 3% for the first year, for a total of 8% over three years. It is evident that the two sides are far apart on the issue of wages. The second meeting will be on March 19. There are only 5 members on the Committee, and we need everyone to help us negotiate. We will need your help in talking to the foreman, general foreman, superintendents or even the owner, about what you feel is a fair deal. Do Apprentices and CEs deserve more money? Everyone should be fighting for all members.

The **Veterans Committee Meeting** will be held on April 4, at Union Hall, at 5 p.m. Peter Green Jr., Veterans Service Specialist in Kalamazoo will be speaking at the next Veterans meeting. If you are interested or have questions concerning veteran services, please come to the meeting.

**NEBF** is increasing for those who retire after Jan. 1, 2025. The change will increase the benefit from \$32 to \$33 per service year credit. For those who are currently retired, a 13th check will be sent out in November of 2025. Go to our website for more information under the "Retirees" tab.

**Retiree Lunches** at the following locations:

Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 @ 10 a.m.

On the last Friday of each month a group of retirees and others meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

**RETIREMENT:** NEBF and IBEW PBF application takes at least 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of your social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications. Important numbers for you to write down: NEBF 301-556-4300 \* IO Pension 202-833-7000

**Wilson-McShane** has been sending emails addressing your special fund accounts. Receipts are required when using the special fund card (WEX Account). Wilson-McShane is asking for receipts. You must produce them, or the IRS requires that you pay taxes on the payouts. The Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) explanation of benefits could be used. Please call the hall or Wilson-McShane for help.

**Three Months** or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: Cody Stokan.

Sign up for a **Code Update class**. Classes are scheduled for April 13 and 14, and May 4 and

(Continued next column)



**IBEW Local 906**

**UPPER PENINSULA** - Upper Peninsula Meetings- 7pm local times

**Marquette unit**– First Tuesday

**Iron Mountain unit** – Second Tuesday

**Escanaba unit** – Second Wednesday

Brothers and Sisters, Thank you to everyone who attended the **UPCC's Apprentice of The Year Banquet**. A special recognition and thank you to those apprentices who were nominated, Eric Gummerus, Jackson Bower and Samuel Burgess.

We will be hosting an informational meeting in Sault Ste. Marie March 28 at 7 pm in the Applebees Conference room located at 4478 I-75 Business Spur.

The May General Membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 4, at 1pm at the Masonic Lodge in Marquette located at 128 West Washington Street. We will be voting on wage allocation. If you have any proposals please bring them to the meeting. If you have any questions concerning the allocations, please reach out to the hall.

**Code update classes:** The JATC is still working on the scheduling of online and in person classes. More details to follow. Code update for our members working for Billerd is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the mill.

New shirts with a new design are in and available for \$20 at the hall. If you have any ideas for additional swag, we should be offering please contact Dejian Dean.

RENEW is hosting a Brotherhood Night March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm at the following locations:

Marquette Superior Lanes Bowling Alley

Escanaba Bowl-A-Rama Bowling Alley

Iron Mountain Recreation Lanes Bowling Alley.

**Reminder:** Our retiree luncheon is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Vierling Restaurant on Front Street below the hall in Marquette starting at 11 am.



## IBEW 131, con't

5. Call the hall or email [mapplebey92@gmail.com](mailto:mapplebey92@gmail.com) to reserve a spot. Classes are limited to 25. There will be classes in the fall. *Morris Applebey Business Manager*



**IBEW Local 948**

**FLINT** – Meetings

**Membership Meeting** – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be April 8th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

**Retiree Meetings** – Retirees will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

**Party Committee** – For interest in participation please contact President Phil Steele.

**AFL Educational Meetings** – Attention all members. Before every monthly meeting at 5 PM, our hall will be hosting educational meetings presented by the AFL-CIO. These meetings aim to further educate our members on core regulations, acts, and laws that play a key role in our careers. For any questions or concerns please contact Jenny Wallace.

**Book Signing** – For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.

**Work Outlook** – Our work outlook is slow with a gradual increase in calls projected post-strike. Steady calls have been available for GM centers. Long term calls for service truck drivers have been made available. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

**Dues Reminder** – Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full. For any questions, concerns, or payments please see Jenny Wallace or call the main office at (810) 767-3308.

**Seeking New Membership** – As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Kellogg Dipzinski.

**New Store Stock** – To all members interested, we have new merchandise at our hall. New stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.

**Thank You to Carly Rose** for your informative speech on the importance of unemployment reform. We greatly look forward to working further with the AFL-CIO in this coming election season.

**Thank you to Jasper Maurtis** for attending our latest membership meeting. We look forward to your support and partnership in future legislation as well as wishing you good luck in the Capitol.

**Congratulations to Eric Crites** on being hired as our latest Organizer. We look forward to having you as an agent of the hall.

**Tiger's Party Bus** – Attention membership, we are seeking interest in booking a party bus and potentially a sweet to a Tiger's game later this year. Plans will not be made unless sign-ups are secured so please contact Jenny Wallace for any interest.

**New Membership** – Welcome to our latest members; Cole Dominick, Kenneth Manwell, Corey Adamczyk, Mohammed Ahmed, and James Jacobs. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

**Retirees** – Congratulations to Marvin Carlson, Michael Poisson, and Charles Reid on your pension applications. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

**Draping of the Charter** – Our condolences to the families of Stan Puchez and Dan Schmidt. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep these Brothers in our hearts.

*"Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow."*

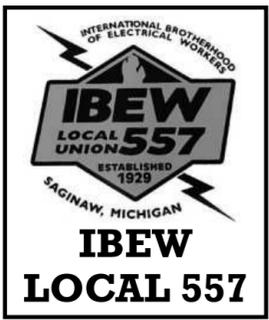
– Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

*"If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counselor, caution your elder brother and hope your guardian genius."*

– Joseph Addison (1672 - 1719)

*"Think not those faithful who praise all thy words and actions; but those who kindly reprove thy faults."*

– Socrates (469 BC - 399 BC)



**IBEW LOCAL 557**  
SAGINAW – UNION NEWS- The Local is currently in contract negotiations with our contractors. At this point, two meetings have taken place. It is evident that the two sides are very far apart on the issues of wages. IBEW skilled trades workers deserve the best compensation. Keep this in mind and remind your current contractor of that during this time.

A Steward class will be put on at the Local on April 3. Please keep this day open. Good stewards on job sites will be vital to this Local for the upcoming workload we will be seeing. The Steward class will run from 4pm to 8pm. This is open to anyone who would like to gain the important information that will be covered in the class.

Poker night for March is set for the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. It would be great to see some new faces.

Very soon Local 557 be even busier than we have been lately. Work is picking up at Hemlock Semi-Conductor and we will need all hands on deck to man the work. This goes hand in hand with the importance of organizing. If you know someone in the electrical field that would like to join our membership, please reach out to them. The new member incentive program is still ongoing, and it could mean a bonus for you, as an existing member as well. The opportunities in front of us in the IBEW are plentiful now and should be for a good period of time. The IBEW is all about changing lives and we will continue to do so.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS-** The next meeting is April 2 at the Hall at 5:30pm.

**ORGANIZING-** Please contact Brother Gus Voisine for any organizing issues. If our members have any questions please reach out to him on his cell: 989-941-8046.

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS-** Normal Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm.

**BOOK SIGNING-** If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off, please come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this.

**WORKOUTLOOK-** Work continues on solar projects in the area. If you are interested in these jobs, they should be available for Book 1 and Book 2 members. Members of other Locals can sign Book 2 by making contact with their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. Weinstein Electric from Local 948 continues work on the new Bavarian Inn Waterpark in Frankenmuth. Future work at HSC is at our doorstep with some hiring expected soon. Master Electric has also secured a job at SVSU. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, some auto plants and other various jobs.

**HEALTH CARE-** Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor. By completing your annual physical, you could catch a health concern early and help keep the cost of health care down. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit [www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com) Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

**BLUE CROSS APP-** Download the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan app for your smartphone. Search for "BCBSM" on the Google Play app or Apple store. Benefits to utilizing the app include: instant access to EOBs, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOBs can be downloaded to smart phones or computers and used to substantiate WEX receipt request.

**JOB CALLS-** Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-



**Local 665**  
LANSING – WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 has OPEN CALLS and will need help from our travelling brothers and sisters. Call the hall for the most up to date information. 665 will be experiencing unfilled calls for all of 2024.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have just surpassed 700 members in the local. Of which 140 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman's job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

**EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM:** Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical, we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email Dale@lejatec.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

**HARASSMENT TRAINING:** Harassment training has been adopted as part of our new contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to the JATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejatec.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

**APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS:** We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to [www.lejatec.org](http://www.lejatec.org) and navigate to the application page on the website.

Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month.

**FIRST AID/CPR:** If you require First Aid/CPR. Contact the JATC for the next available date to sign up.

**DRUG TEST / MUST MODS:** If you are planning on working any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your MUST mods/ OSHA 30 and your MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS:** The Executive Board meets the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

**DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS:** Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #348. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

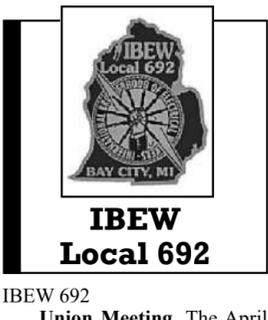
**BENEFICIARIES:** If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at the hall.

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** In remembrance of local 665 members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal. James McDonald 2/22/24, Roger Carroll 12/13/23, Harry Baker 11/26/23, Mark McCrackin 10/02/23, Howard Shooltz 08/14/23, Gerald Loughlin 08/19/23, Walter Keith Sr. 07/12/23, Joseph Fussman 06/16/23, Eric Odle 05/15/23, Christopher Brown 04/12/23, Richard Farrington 03/12/2023, Donald Reidsma 02/22/23.

**Local 665, con't**  
0516, option 3.

**STAY CURRENT ON DUES** Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee for the service. You can pay for these purchases over the phone, if you wish.

**CONTACT NUMBERS-** Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855)633-4584. Website is: [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org) In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager



**IBEW Local 692**  
Union Meeting. The April monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**Executive Board Meeting.** The April Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Message from the Business Manager.** Thank you to all of the members who braved the cold weather and brutal winds to walk in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade here in Bay City. It was a great time as usual and we are already looking forward to having more members join us for next year's walk. It is so important to have the involvement from our membership and I really cannot thank you enough for what you all do. Without membership involvement there is no Local Union.

Contract negotiations will continue through the Spring of 2024 on the inside wireman's agreement. As soon as a tentative agreement is reached the membership will be notified for a ratification vote.

**Work Report.** Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include:

-Nelson Electric (Currently) GM Powertrain - Many more projects to come at Powertrain.

-J. Ranck Electric – continuing work at SK Siltron semiconductor chip manufacturing facility.

-Master Electric continues Electrical installations on the new Isabella County Jail. More calls for this project are expected.

-Countyline has secured Airport Work. Countyline has a Michigan Sugar De-Sugarization Project and also a project at the Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facility.

-Clements Electric Independence Bridge work continues along with Bay Carbon Project, and also work out to the Bay City State Park. Clements has also secured some work out to Mersen.

-Conti Electric has many projects inside I -Park (DOW). Conti Electric has also secured a couple small projects inside Michigan Sugar along with a nice Fire Alarm Project on site at Michigan Sugar.

-Conti Electric also expects to assemble trailer city on their upcoming solar project near Rogers City April 1<sup>st</sup>. Conti expects the average manpower on this project to be around 50 peaking at 90. Zone 1 scale will be paid on this project along with \$ 50.00 dollars a day incentive pay being offered per Conti.

-Escon has secured a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end. Much more work is to come out at Mersen with projects bidding as you read this article.

-Zone 2 also has another Solar project coming to the Lafarge Cement Plant. This Project could also start very soon.

- Another large-scale utility solar project is expected to break ground in Isabella County this year. As soon as more details are known I will share them.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership.

Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing are currently having many calls getting into Book II if you are looking for work. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books. In Solidarity, Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary Union Dues

**PLEASE NOTE: Effective January 1, 2024, dues will remain \$45.20 per month through June 2024. Effective July 1, 2024, dues will increase to \$46.20 per month.** This \$1 per capita increase was approved by the delegates of the 40<sup>th</sup> IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.

If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.

Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.

(Continued next column)

**IBEW Local 275's column -- See Page 12**



**IBEW Local 252**  
ANN ARBOR – BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office AND at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at BOTH.

**TRAINING CLASSES 2024: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM**  
CPR/First Aid Tuesdays, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>  
There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register.

There will be a code update required in 2024 for 2025 license. We have 4 sessions this Winter, Spring and will have six more in the fall. Sessions are limited to 50 people each.

**JATC INSTRUCTOR OPENING:** We will be taking applications for a full-time instructor April 1 thru May 31. Turn in resume and cover letter to the Ann Arbor Electrical JATC, located at 13400 Luick Drive Chelsea, MI 48118, or email to Hope Salyer at [hopes@aeajatec.org](mailto:hopes@aeajatec.org). All applications will be kept confidential.

**2024 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR:** Purchase your 2024 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA's 2024 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2024! Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, prize winners will be drawn each week for 52 weeks. Sweepstakes entrants are eligible to win multiple prizes! These calendars make great Christmas gifts for the hunters/gun enthusiasts in your life, or just treat yourself for a chance to win! Online calendar registration is available until April 15. Only mail-in registrations will be accepted after that date. Entries registered after Jan. 1 will only be included in drawings that occur after the registration date. Calendars are \$35 and can be purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at [www.union4lifegun.com](http://www.union4lifegun.com).

**EASTER EGG HUNT:** Renew Committee's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 23 at the Union Hall from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Activities include an egg coloring contest, egg hunt with prizes for kids under 10, games for all ages, and visits from the Easter Bunny. Egg hunt will begin at 3 p.m. For more information, or to RSVP please contact Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** American Red Cross will be at the Union Hall on April 24 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. For an appointment, log onto RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code Jeremy), or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk in donations are also accepted. Please take time to honor Jeremy Loy's memory with your donation.

**PICNIC:** This year's picnic will be held at the Apple Creek Campground, 11185 Orban Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240 at noon

**2024 Dues (January 2024 thru June 2024): \$45.20 Monthly 2024 Dues (July 2024 thru Dec. 2024): \$46.20 Monthly**  
To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.

**Fringe Benefits.** REMINDER: if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall.

**REMINDER:** If you contact the Health Plan Office about going on short term disability, it is important for you to notify the Hall as well. A copy of your paperwork will need to be submitted to the Hall for your file. This will also freeze your position on the out of work list.

**Important links & numbers**  
Health Plan & Pension Fund 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE  
[www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
NEBF/NEAP: 301.556.4300  
IO Pension: 202.833.7000

**IBEW 692**

**2024 Dues (January 2024 thru June 2024): \$45.20 Monthly 2024 Dues (July 2024 thru Dec. 2024): \$46.20 Monthly**  
To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.

**Effective July 1, 2024:** A Members will pay \$134.25 per quarter.

**Effective Jan. 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$140.25 per quarter.

**Effective July 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$143.25 per quarter.

The Business Office wishes all of our members and their families a Happy Easter!

on Aug. 17. Please contact the campground at (517) 522-3467 if you wish to reserve a site. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dan Beck, (810) 858-0033.

**RETIREE'S CARD GAME:** The first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for card games and donuts. The games start at 9 a.m. Please come join the fun.

**RETIREESBREAKFAST:** The Retirees' Breakfast will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances in both the front and rear of the restaurant.

**M.U.S.T DRUG TESTING:** Please make sure your MUST drug testing is current as you cannot work on a U of M project or several other projects in the jurisdiction without being current. Local 252 has a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use.

**ERTS:** Please make sure that you are signed up in the Electronic Reciprocity Transfer System. You must be signed up in ERTS before working outside of Local 252's jurisdiction or your benefits will not be transferred back.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for a number of issues. For confidential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit [www.my-life-resource.com](http://www.my-life-resource.com) and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

**AFLAC INSURANCE:** Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone number: (517) 306-0144.

**RETIREMENT:** NEBF and applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date.

IBEW PBF applications usually take 3 months to process but are running a couple months behind. IBEW PBF applications can be filled out 6 months before your planned retirement date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

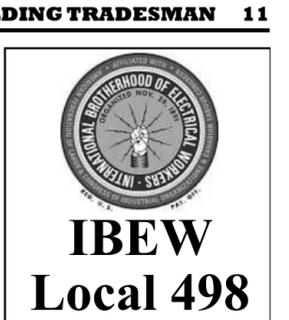
**CREDIT CARDS:** The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3.5% to use your card.

**DUES PAYMENTS** – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2023, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 for first quarter 2023. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, March 29, 2023.

**Future Dues Increases:**  
**Effective July 1, 2024:** A Members will pay \$134.25 per quarter.  
**Effective Jan. 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$140.25 per quarter.  
**Effective July 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$143.25 per quarter.

The Business Office wishes all of our members and their families a Happy Easter!

**IBEW LOCAL 252**



**IBEW Local 498**  
"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498 TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

**Regular E Board-** The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, APRIL 8, 2024 @ 5:30pm.

**Regular Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, APRIL 8, 2024.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Local Union 498** – You should have received your invite for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Party to be held at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City on April 27, 2024 by email and USPS. We are looking for volunteers to help also. Please call Dave or Dylan. The window to RSVP has now closed due to limited seating, but we are taking names of those that would still like to attend in case we have some cancellations. So far, we have over 200 members and significant others signed up to attend. Please call and get on the list if you still want an opportunity to attend.

For those who are attending please be aware that there is extensive road construction on Front Street directly in front of the Hagerty Center. We will be sending a map out on how to access the venue.\*

**Code Update Class** – The State of Michigan has adopted the 2023 code. Tim Babcock is working on dates for an update class for the 2025 license renewal. Please watch later editions for a class time update.

**Negotiations** have started, please watch your mail box for a post card for an invite to a special called ratification meeting. We will also notify you by email as well.

**Resale Items** – We still have a few select sizes of Local 498 t-shirts, as well as Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home Hats are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing

**Retiree breakfast-** Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport road every Monday morning at 9am. So if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky's.

**Scholarship** – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship 'Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment' for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to [www.gtrcf.org/scholarships/](http://www.gtrcf.org/scholarships/). Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

**Email Addresses** - Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at [ibew@local498.net](mailto:ibew@local498.net) Thank you!

**Important numbers:**  
**MEEHP (Health)** 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)

**MEEPP (MI Pension)** 1-855-633-4584

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan) 3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425  
NEBF 1-301-556-4300  
NEAP 1-301-556-4300  
IO Pension 1-202-833-7000  
DUES RATES  
Jan 1, 2023 – Dues increase to \$152.10/Quarter.  
July 1, 2024 – Dues increase to \$155.10/Quarter.

**Info Updates** – Any member with a new address, phone number, email address, etc. should contact Local 498 with these changes.

**CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL**

Aluminum - Copper - Brass  
Nickel - Alloys - Carbide  
Radiators - Lead - Batteries

<p><b>McNichols</b> Scrap Iron &amp; Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) <a href="http://mcnicholsscrap.com">mcnicholsscrap.com</a> <b>(313) 365-6100</b></p>	<p><b>Detroit</b> Iron &amp; Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) <a href="http://detroitironandmetal.com">detroitironandmetal.com</a> <b>(313) 841-5100</b></p>
--	---



**Local 275**

**IBEW Local 275**  
 COOPERSVILLE – The work outlook continues to be very busy, with the potential of several large projects kicking off this Spring and Summer in addition to the work our contractors have already secured. We've had various open job calls for some time and plan to have more over the coming weeks and months. Call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call you may be interested in.

With the tremendous amount of work right now, the Local has been organizing new members of all levels to fill calls and grow the Local. If you've been to a Union meeting recently, you'd know we've been swearing in several new members every month for the last several months. We can use all the help we can get, so if you know any electricians in your social circles and/or communities, please encourage them to reach out to one of our organizers, Walter or Geoff.

Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to walk in the St Patrick's Parade in Grand Rapids last Saturday! It was a great turnout and Local 275 was well represented in the parade!

The 2024 West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, March 28! Please mark this date on your calendars if you plan to attend this year's event. We approved tickets at last month's meeting and they are at the Hall. If you would like to reserve tickets, call Nicole at the Hall. If you have any extra fillets or meat in your freezers that can be donated, please contact Walter at the Union Hall.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Luke Rokus, and Rodney Dobb. Please make every effort to get caught up with your dues as soon as you can.



**Nicely spliced**

**SPLICING WIRING** for a temporary lighting fixture on the second floor of the Genesee County Building project in Flint is Eric Hunsinger of IBEW Local 948. He's employed by Walker Electric.



**Local 591**  
 Sign, Pictorial & Display

**Sign Pictorial & Display 591**

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

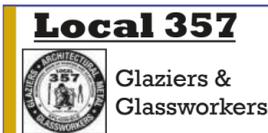
Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting

Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your Business Representative.

Questions pertaining to Local 591 Pension Fund issues call 248-645-6550 and/or Health Care issues call 248-358-3340 or 800-482-8736 which will then be answered directly through fund office.

**OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK:** procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474.



**Glaziers & Glassworkers 357**  
 WARREN – Our next union meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, at 6 pm. This meeting will be a Special Called Meeting. At this April meeting we will hold our 2024 allocations vote, and hold nominations to send two delegates to the General Convention.

These allocations will go in to effect on June 1, 2024. Please make every effort to attend.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. Iupatpension.org

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member id printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it's a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits if you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

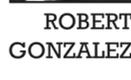
The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-0666; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep our union strong, so try to make it to a meeting. –Business Rep. Don Stepp



**Painters DC 1M**  
 WARREN – Dear Members, **DC1M WEBSITE:** [www.iupat-de1michigan.org](http://www.iupat-de1michigan.org)  
**DC 1M UNION CARDS\*.** Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at: Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100  
 Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

**PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP**  
 Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP. For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore



**ROBERT GONZALEZ**  
 Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP  
 Username: your member id#  
 Password: painters

With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

**FTI of the Great Lakes upgrade classes:** FTI Apprenticeship will be putting on Rigging and Signaling classes.

Rigging and Signaling class- Warren March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. 9AM start time

Contact FTI Director Shawn O'Neill to register  
 Email: [dot@iupatdc1m.org](mailto:dot@iupatdc1m.org) or call at (517) 304-4425

**Sickness and Death.** It is with great sadness we announce the following: Local 826 and owner of Calvin Glass, Dennis Calvin passed away.

**GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!**

**OUT OF WORK/ BACK TO WORK:** To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888. New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.

**District Council 1M**  
**Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez  
**Meeting date:** 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.  
**Place:** 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

**Local Union 312**  
**Business Rep:** Tim Schwerin  
**Meeting date:** 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

**Local Union 514**  
**Business Rep:** Scott Mikulen  
**Meeting dates:** 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.  
**Web site:** [www.iupat-local514.org](http://www.iupat-local514.org).

**Local Union 826**  
**Business Rep:** Rocky Ackerman  
**Meeting date:** 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

**Local Union 845**  
**Business Rep –** Fred Frederickson  
**Meeting date:** 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.  
**Place:** 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

**Local Union 1052**  
**Business Rep –** Jake Fluty  
**Meeting date:** The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m  
**Place:** 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

**Local Union 1803**  
**Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle  
**Meeting date:** 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

**Local Union 2352**  
**Business Rep:** Jeremy Haviland  
**Meeting Date:** 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

**Local Union 2353**  
**Business Rep:** Tony Parker  
**Meeting date:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

CALL THE LAW OFFICES OF  
**SERLING & ABRAMSON P.C.**  
 MESOTHELIOMA • LUNG CANCER

- Represented over 5,000 Michigan Plaintiffs in most all building trades
- Represented auto, chemical, utility and steel plant workers
- Over 200 years of combined experience
- We know the asbestos products that were used in Michigan and where exposures occurred

"From the very first conversation, we knew that the Serling firm would be honest, hardworking and compassionate. We felt so comfortable and protected with the Serling firm."

-Widow of Chrysler Engineer

**Experience • Results • Michigan Attorneys • Asbestos Product Experts**

**Insulators • Pipefitters • Bricklayers • Plumbers • Boilermakers  
 Electricians • Utility Workers • Steel and Auto Workers • HVAC Workers • Other Trades**



Hundreds of millions of dollars collected for Mesothelioma & Lung cancer

**MICHIGAN'S FIRST & FINEST**



Offices in Birmingham and Allen Park

Can qualify for Lung Cancer case even if you smoked

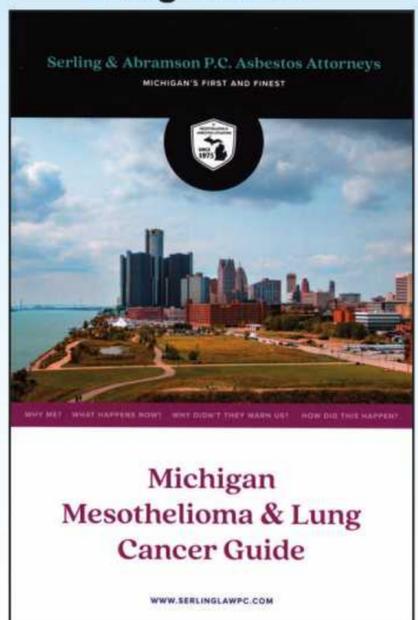
[www.serlinglawpc.com](http://www.serlinglawpc.com)

CALL for a **FREE** consultation and we will review your claim

**(248) 647-6966**

**(800) 995-6991**

Receive our **FREE** Michigan Guide Book on Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer



**Michigan Mesothelioma & Lung Cancer Guide**  
[WWW.SERLINGLAWPC.COM](http://WWW.SERLINGLAWPC.COM)



## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

### BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING  
\*ALL CHAPTER OFFICER NOMINATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE MAY 2024\*

MARCH 2024 CHAPTER MEETINGS. SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

APRIL 2024 CHAPTER MEETINGS. M E T R O D E T R O I T CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 02, 2024 at 5:30 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANNARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 02, 2024 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 03, 2024 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

HOUGHTON: Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6 PM, 3321 Remy Dr., Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Rd West, Traverse City, MI 49685

UNION DUES UPDATE  
Effective January 01, 2024, the dues discount has changed. It is now pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive discount, you must be current on dues. Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.

DEATHS REPORTED.  
Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Brother Senio Cerilli (Cement Mason) who passed away on February 25, 2024. Brother Cerilli had been a member for 25 years.

IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\*  
Future union information and negotiation surveys will now be sent via text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text 2MI to 50607. You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#) Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

WEBSITE UPDATES: Be sure to check out our new website

at <https://www.bricklayers.org> and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores by searching for Bricklayers Local 2.

**SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS:** Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a Signing Bonus for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors.

**BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS:** Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2024 online training classes.

**APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS:** Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets MUST be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE:** The IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for Membership Assistance Monday - Friday 8 am - 8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via e-mail. Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to [information@bricklayers.org](mailto:information@bricklayers.org) and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication.

**PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION.** BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund - (248) 828-6000

CALL-A-DOC - (800) 835-2362

Cement Pension & Vacation Funds - (248) 645-6550

International Pension/Annuity Fund - (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension - (248) 641-4954



## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

DETROIT - The next membership meeting is Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 pm. There will also, be an executive board meeting the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

New Sweatshirts are in! Call your Business Agent to arrange for pickup.

Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: [abest@opcmiami.org](mailto:abest@opcmiami.org) Please send your updated information in a timely manner.

**Membership gold cards- Congratulations!**

March: Sparrow Rissman-25 Years

April: Robert Blaylock Jr. -25 Years

Thomas Earley-25 Years

Brian Mlasko-25 Years

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.Mustsafe.com](http://www.Mustsafe.com) to see how many modules you have. Your username is your full social security number and your password is the first four of your social security number.

**Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account.** To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to [bcbsm.com/register](http://bcbsm.com/register) and select register now.

**Beneficiary Reminder:** It is important for all members to keep the Local updated on addresses, email and phone numbers. If you need to change an address or add an email and phone number, please call the Local at (248) 548-0800.

**Death Certificates:** Please always notify the Union Hall with a phone call when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired member.

**Attention all Apprentices,** now you will need to go to the website: [www.micementplasterertraining.com](http://www.micementplasterertraining.com) to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice monthly work form instructions". You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

If you are a Military Veteran, please contact the Local so we can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.

The Local's website is: [www.opcmiami.org](http://www.opcmiami.org).

Please refer to website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has



THE 10-STORY TOWER that's being converted into offices for Genesee County in Flint has all manner of tasks to be completed, big and small. Here Trent Strong, a member of Cement Masons Local 514 and employed by E & L Construction Group, wraps up a small job: a second floor patch on a former electrical box.

a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are having a negative impact on our market share. The work forecast this year looks better than last. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fines will be enforced. Let's work together to secure our future!!

**Important Notice For Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons:** You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, [www.Principal.com](http://www.Principal.com) or by telephone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: [Principal.com](http://Principal.com)

If you are a first-time user,

go to [Principal.com/Welcome](http://Principal.com/Welcome) Select Get Started.

Enter your first name, last name, date of birth, mobile phone number (this is the quickest way to verify your identity), and your ID number (this is either your Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue. If you don't provide your mobile phone number, you'll need to answer a few personal questions as an alternative way to confirm it's really you.

Create a unique username, set a secure password, and add your email address.

Select and answer three security questions to use if you need to call us.

You now have access to your online account, and you'll get a confirmation email within a few minutes.

Feel free to call Principal at 1-800-547-7754 and speak with someone between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday-Friday with any questions regarding online access.

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you

can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 30700 Telegraph Rd., Ste 2400 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4524. The Fund Office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Plasterers and Cement Masons:** It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the local 514 area. This will ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local. **Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local.**

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits,

**Road Builders** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502.

**Plasterers and Commercial Cement Masons** can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357.

**All Plasterers and Cement Masons** can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

### You and your health ...



## Where Did That \$9,000 Go? Health Insurance Costs.

... had health insurance costs remained stable, wages for the average family could have increased by nearly \$9,000 a year.

**A RECENTLY PUBLISHED** study in the medical journal *JAMA Open Network* analyzed the cost of employer-sponsored health insurance in the U.S. It concluded that had health insurance costs remained stable, wages for the average family could have increased by nearly \$9,000 a year.

That's a big chunk of change. And lower-paid workers had an even larger percentage of their compensation eaten-up by health insurance costs, so they would have gained even more.

Simply put, Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian, a cardiologist and senior author on the study, said in a news release that "Employers are spending more on insurance premiums instead of that money going to workers as wages."

The study compiled national insurance data from individuals with employer sponsored health insurance from 1988 through 2019. In 1988, health insurance premiums averaged 7.9% of total worker compensation. By 2019, the percentage has risen to 17.7%.

If costs had not jumped so high, \$8,774 more would have been available to put toward annual wages.

#### The Future Outlook

According to consulting firms Aon, Mercer, and Willis Towers Watson (WTA), healthcare cost increases ranging between 5.4% to 8.5% are expected in 2024. Typical annual increases have hovered in the 3-4% range in past years, according to Mercer. But 2023 costs were already 7% higher than in 2022, so an additional big hike this year will make it especially difficult to rein in costs.

Health insurance plans are expensive. Workers typically foot some of the bill for their plan

which can amount to thousands of dollars a year in out-of-pocket expenses. Increasingly, workers are struggling to afford their share of premiums, copays and deductibles. Often this leads to going without insurance, needed care, or amassing debt.

In a survey conducted by the Commonwealth Fund, 3,032 individuals who had employer-sponsored healthcare in 2023 answered a series of questions about their healthcare finances. 43% reported it was very or somewhat difficult to afford their healthcare. 30% were paying off debt from medical or dental care. 29% said their healthcare costs had made it harder for them to afford food or pay for common household expenses such as electric or heating bills.

#### What's Driving Costs?

People who put off care during the pandemic are now seeking care, and sometimes the chronic conditions they delayed getting care for will cost more to treat. Additionally, newer and more expensive specialty drugs, particularly for treating cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, MS, cystic fibrosis, and diabetes are being utilized in greater numbers, which increases the overall cost for prescription drugs.

While inflation is currently tame relative to the highs experienced in 2022-23, contracts between insurers and providers are often negotiated years in advance. New contracts will likely reflect an effort by providers to recover increased costs incurred

*AEPC is a labor-management purchasing coalition with a proven track record of delivering the best price, service and expertise for benefits. For more info about our programs and health and wellness information, visit our website: [www.aepc.us](http://www.aepc.us) or on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.*

during the inflation upswing.

#### What Should Change?

The study in *JAMA Open Network* doesn't assign blame to any party, and instead points to the importance of changing U.S. health policy to focus on prevention and lower costs. Indeed, healthcare as it exists in the U.S. today is terribly complex, and many different parties are responsible for a share of this high-cost system.

**AEPC** was born when labor unions and management worked to find a way to do exactly what the study authors recommend: lower costs for high quality care and promote wellness. Working within the imperfect U.S. health system, AEPC is proud to offer prescription drug plans and other programs that negotiate the best possible price for a quality plan. We do this with little fanfare or attention, but do it we must until a better system comes into being.

#### What Can You Do?

Stay in your union job or organize a union where you work! There's a union advantage when it comes to health insurance coverage and access to care. An article in the *International Journal of Health Economics Management* cites data that 98% of union workers have health insurance coverage, compared to 86% of those without a union. The same article quantified that union workers pay a lower share of out-of-pocket expenses, and that they are more likely to have a regular doctor.

# Attention Tradesmen

## Tools and Trades Expo

### of Kalamazoo

APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup> 10AM TO 6PM  
@ THE KALAMAZOO EXPO CENTER

JOIN BUILDING TRADES CONTRACTORS, VENDORS, AND TRADESMEN FOR 2 DAYS OF INDUSTRY NETWORKING, TOOL/GEAR DEMOS, GUEST SPEAKERS, INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND MORE!



## Outdoors

# Stopping the invaders



A SPOTTED LANTERNFLY, shown here, is one of the invasive pests that threaten Michigan's forests. If you see one, the Michigan DNR recommends that you kill it. "See it. Squish it. Report it." It can be reported at [www.michigan.gov/invasives](http://www.michigan.gov/invasives).

(From the Michigan DNR)  
Protecting Michigan's 20 million acres of forest land and urban trees from threats posed by invasive plants, diseases and pests is no small job.

Some of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' recent work on that front is detailed in the latest "Forest Health Highlights" report, which explores forest health trends in the state during 2023.

As we mark National Invasive Species Awareness Week – an annual event, this year which took place Feb. 26 through March 3, to bring attention to invasive species, the threats they pose and what we can do together to prevent their spread – it's a great time to look at what the DNR and others are doing to keep Michigan's forests healthy, productive and sustainable in the face of these risks.

An invasive species is one that is not native and whose introduction causes harm, or is likely to cause harm to Michigan's economy, environment, or human health. These pests often are fast-growing, reproduce rapidly and have few predators or natural controls in their new environments.

"One of the biggest challenges to maintaining healthy forests is addressing pests and diseases," Sue Tangora, forest health and cooperative programs manager for the DNR's Forest Resources Division, said in the report's introduction.

Tangora went on to explain that climate change is altering forest pest and disease outbreaks – which historically were predictable, as forests evolved with native insects and diseases, adapting to maintain forest benefits – and creating new challenges for forest managers. Climate change creates uncertainty about the extent, timing and severity of outbreaks.

"This unpredictability increases with every new invasive insect, disease or plant introduced into our forests. The longer invasives are at play, the harder it is to



INSPECTING AND CLEANING shoes, clothing, gear and vehicles to assure they are pest- and seed-free can help limit the spread of invasive species. Shown here is a trailhead boot brush, where trail users can clean their footwear before and after their hike. MDNR photos

reverse the negative impacts they have on forests and the people and wildlife who depend on them," she said.

Examples of 2023 invasive species efforts highlighted in the report include teaming up with local and federal partners to treat hemlock trees in six west Michigan counties against a tiny, aphid-like invader, the hemlock woolly adelgid, and working to identify and respond to detections of beech leaf disease in seven southeast Michigan counties.

"The DNR's forest health team works closely with local cooperative invasive species management areas, or CISMAs, federal experts, researchers and many others to address issues that are new or ongoing," said James Wierich, forest health unit manager with the DNR's Forest Resources Division. "Besides on-the-ground work, the Forest Health Program brings money into Michigan to help partners address forest health challenges and concerns across the state and, in many cases,

prevent rapid spread of new pests and diseases into the region."

**Progress is being made against the pest.** The battle against the hemlock woolly adelgid is one good example of the type of teamwork that takes place when Michigan's forests are threatened. The tiny insect sucks sap from hemlock twigs, and ongoing infestations can weaken or kill host trees.

That threat means boots on the ground, first to find infestations, then to treat the trees. Over the past seven years, 12,468 acres and 231,429 trees have been treated as part of a strategy to keep the insect from spreading into northern forests. The good news: Most of Michigan's hemlock trees are many miles away from established hemlock woolly adelgid populations.

Over the past seven years, more than \$6.5 million has been raised to respond to the threat posed by the insect, and efforts continue to be funded through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, U.S. Environmental



A TREE BRANCH infested with white-specked balsam woolly adelgid, an invasive pest relatively new to Michigan.

Protection Agency, Recreation Passport (state park user fees), fundraising efforts supported by Bob Ross Inc. and other state funds.

The DNR's forest health team also works with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to respond to recent detections of a similar insect, the balsam woolly adelgid, in Kent, Missaukee and Oceana counties.

**Balsam woolly adelgid also has become a threat.** Balsam

woolly adelgid poses a threat to the roughly 1.9 billion balsam fir trees within their native range in Michigan's northern Lower and Upper peninsulas, as well as non-native Fraser and concolor firs. These fir species are important to Michigan's Christmas tree industry. Producing nearly 13.5 million trees each year, Michigan is the country's third-largest Christmas tree grower.

Balsam woolly adelgid was detected in Michigan in August 2021, when MDARD officials were notified of several infested Fraser firs in Kent County. No evidence of additional infestation was found within the survey area, and the eight infested Fraser firs were cut and chipped in winter 2021. Follow-up surveys in late 2022 found no evidence of balsam woolly adelgid in Kent County.

However, in 2023, additional infestations likely resulting from separate introductions were detected in limited areas of Missaukee and Oceana counties. Infestations are currently being evaluated, and treatment plans will be implemented once completed.

**You can help.** Forest health professionals cover a lot of ground throughout the state, but they can't be everywhere. The program relies heavily on reports from people who notice unusual insects or sick or dying trees. If you see something unusual or have concerns about trees in your area, use one of these methods to report it.

Report invasive pests to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development hotline at 1-800-292-3939 or

email [MDA-Info@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDA-Info@Michigan.gov).

Find information at [Michigan.gov/ForestHealth](http://Michigan.gov/ForestHealth), regarding concerns such as oak wilt, new potential invasive species and more. You can also sign up at the bottom of the page for forest health email updates.

Report suspected invasive species and get resources through the Michigan Invasive Species Information Network.

In observance of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, MDARD also is encouraging all Michiganders to do their part to prevent the spread of invasive species.

"Our department works tirelessly to prevent the spread of these pests, but getting everyone involved in prevention and detection is key to the fight against invasive species," said Steve Carlson, MDARD's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division director.

MDARD's suggestions for some ways to help limit the spread of invasive species include:

- Buy heat-treated firewood or buy wood where you burn it to avoid transporting insects or tree diseases that may be hitchhiking in untreated wood.

- When returning from international travel, declare food, plants and other agricultural items to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure these items are pest-free.

- Avoid buying seeds or plants online from unknown vendors.

- After enjoying the outdoors, inspect and clean shoes, clothing, gear and vehicles to assure they are pest- and seed-free.

## ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

### Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS  
PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

- ◆ Mesothelioma
- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
- ◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis
- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

As pioneers in asbestos litigation, GPW has filed asbestos lawsuits since 1984, defending the rights of hardworking men and women throughout Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG CANCER, ABESTOSIS, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, THROAT CANCER, and COLON CANCER.

Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

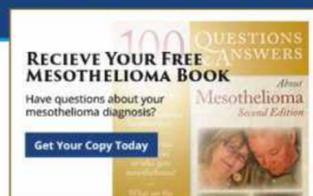
#### \$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.

For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We have represented mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestos disease victims, obtaining over \$1 billion in compensation for our clients.

CONTACT GPW TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE COPY OF 100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT MESOTHELIOMA!

For nearly 20 years GPW has offered this FREE resource and guide to mesothelioma victims. Call 800-799-2234 or visit [www.gpwlaw-mi.com](http://www.gpwlaw-mi.com) to request a FREE copy today!



Contact us today:

**800-799-2234**

[www.gpwlaw-mi.com](http://www.gpwlaw-mi.com)

Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry. Call for a FREE consultation.